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THE INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY 18 JUNE 1998

هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

(IR 50p) 45p

32-PAGE NEWS SECTION

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

16-PAGE EDUCATION SECTION



Asprilla: named and shamed

WITH 10 PAGES OF SPORT



Ireland's new front line

DAVID MCKITTRICK, THURSDAY REVIEW FRONT



Give the boys a chance

HOW UNIVERSITIES ARE FAILING OUR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Finally, police apologise to Lawrence family

BY KATHY MARKS

FIVE YEARS after Stephen Lawrence was stabbed to death, his parents finally received an apology from Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, yesterday for the catalogue of errors that enabled their son's killers to escape justice.

The apology was made through the assistant commissioner, Ian Johnston, the force's third highest-ranking officer. At the public inquiry into Stephen's death, he told the Lawrence family: "We have let

you down. We could have and should have done better.

"On behalf of myself and the commissioner, who specifically asked me to associate myself with these words, and the whole of the Metropolitan Police, I offer my sincere and deep apologies to you," he said.

Despite Mr Johnston's statement, pressure was mounting last night for the commissioner himself to appear before the inquiry.

Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, believe that since ultimate responsibility for the conduct of indi-

vidual officers rests with Sir Paul, he should be called to answer questions about why the murder investigation went so badly wrong. Sir Paul yesterday made it clear that he was willing to attend. But Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, chairman of the inquiry, and his three advisers are understood to be divided about whether he should be called.

Yesterday's apology was a belated attempt by the Metropolitan Police to counter the disastrous effect of the public inquiry on the force's image, with almost daily revelations of

negligence and incompetence over the past three months. Last week, Mr Lawrence told the inquiry that he was bitter about the police's failure to apologise to his family.

Mr Johnston's statement was unexpected. Yesterday, he waited for Mr Lawrence to arrive before addressing him from the witness box. Standing up, he said: "Mr Lawrence, I wanted to say to you that I am truly sorry that we have let you down. You have lost a son and not seen his killers brought to justice."

He went on: "It has been a

tragedy for the Metropolitan Police, who have lost the confidence of a significant section of the community for the way we have handled the case. I can understand and explain some of what went wrong. I cannot and do not seek to justify it.

"We are determined to learn lessons from this. A great deal has changed and yet more will change. We have tried over the last four years, since the first investigation, to show imagination and determination to prosecute Stephen's killers. I deeply regret that we have not put his killers away."

Mr Johnston also apologised for his own obstinacy over the years in refusing to acknowledge mistakes in the way that the original murder inquiry was conducted. As recently as February last year, he claimed that "right from the start, we did all we could".

Five youths were charged with the racially motivated attack on Stephen, who was stabbed to death in Eltham, south-east London, in April 1993. None of them was ever convicted.

Outside the inquiry, the Lawrences said that the apol-

ogy followed "five years of trauma, heartache and suffering". "The commissioner now accepts that the first investigation was flawed and incompetent," they said in a statement. "What will happen to those officers? Will they be disciplined? Will those now retired lose their pensions?"

Referring to allegations of corruption within the murder squad, they added: "Maybe we need another public inquiry into police corruption for the commissioner to then accept that these boys were protected in some way.

"If it hadn't been for this inquiry, the commissioner would still be saying that officers did everything they could to bring our son's killers to justice. Whilst we accept the commissioner's apology, we do not forget that Stephen's killers are still free."

Mr Lawrence added: "We would like now to have the commissioner here himself to answer questions and him himself to apologise."

The inquiry was adjourned until Monday. Today, the High Court will decide whether the five suspects can be forced to attend the inquiry.

Jobless raise the spectre of slump

BY LEA PATERSON

THE JOBLESS total has risen for the first time in more than two years, prompting fears in the City that Britain could be heading for a recession.

Publication of the unemployment figures yesterday coincided with the release of data showing that pay - particularly in the private sector - is still surging ahead.

0.25 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

Now a spate of unfavourable economic data - including yesterday's pay figures and news on Tuesday that inflation had hit a six-year high - has led many City economists to predict that rates could rise yet again.

Kevin Gardiner at Morgan Stanley said: "On balance, the data has increased the risk of a rate rise in the months ahead, possibly as early as July."

In the past, the MPC has said it was particularly concerned about the growth in earnings, particularly in the private sector. Yesterday's data revealed that average private sector earnings were almost 6 per cent higher in March 1998 than in March 1997.

The Treasury made its familiar plea to industry to show restraint. A spokesperson said: "It would be the worst of short-termism now to pay ourselves more today at the cost of higher interest rates, fewer jobs and slower growth tomorrow."

The Conservatives were quick to jump on the offensive. John Redwood, trade and industry spokesman, said: "The Government has lost control of earnings and prices. Now they will make manufacturing suffer with higher interest rates and higher sterling."

The recent rate rise is already filtering through to consumers. The Woolwich and Northern Rock yesterday became the latest mortgage lenders to put up rates. Both raised their rates to 8.95 per cent.

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On Tuesday, Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, warned that the economy was closer to overheating. That means interest rates could rise yet again, despite yesterday's increase in unemployment.

Some economists now fear that the UK could be moving into a painful period of rising unemployment and rising inflation. A fortnight ago, the Bank of England's committee of economists, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), shocked both industry and the financial markets by raising rates by



A welcome is prepared for Louise Woodward at a bakery in her hometown, Elton, Cheshire

Dan Cheung

Woodward flies home as parents sue

BY DAVID USBORNE in Boston

FACING A vigorous civil lawsuit and her name tainted for the rest of her life by a conviction of manslaughter, Britain's most famous au pair abroad, Louise Woodward, arrives back at her home village of Elton, Cheshire, today.

She was travelling to Britain overnight on a British Airways flight and will face the world's press when she arrives at Manchester airport this morning.

Yesterday she collected her passport, held by the court, which had been the only remaining obstacle to Woodward's departure from Boston.

The highest Massachusetts court on Monday upheld the decision of the trial judge, Hiller Zobel, to downgrade the original conviction of second degree murder to manslaughter and to release her on the 279 days she had already served in prison.

Woodward, however, faces fresh legal troubles from the parents of the child she is convicted of killing, Matthew

Eappen. As she bearded for Boston airport, proceedings got under way in a federal court house in a civil damages lawsuit filed against her by Deborah and Sam Eappen.

Lawyers for the family asked the court to grant an injunction barring Woodward from making any money from selling her story to the media. The wider suit, meanwhile, seeks both compensatory and punitive damages from her which could mount into the tens of millions of dollars. Imposing any civil damages against Woodward once she is on British soil could be problematic, however.

"The purpose of this lawsuit is to ensure that Louise Woodward does not become a millionaire because she killed an 8-month-old baby," said Fredric Ellis, a lawyer for Mr and Mrs Eappen.

The most outspoken critic of Woodward has been the District Attorney who first filed the murder charges against her, Thomas Reilly. "I want her out of this country," he said. "She should leave this country as soon as possible. She killed that little boy."

Blair urges firms to sack hooligans

BY COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

COMPANIES WERE given legal backing by the Home Secretary last night to sack workers found guilty of football hooliganism at the World Cup after an appeal by the Prime Minister for employers to get tough with the troublemakers.

The Government acted last night amid rising fears that there will be more trouble involving England fans in Toulouse, where Monday's game against Romania takes place.

The troublemakers who are in the firing line include a senior craftsman in the RAF, a Nuneaton railwayman, two postal workers and a London ticket agency clerk.

Mr Blair issued his call to employers talks with Jack Straw and George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, who will tell the armed forces to make sure servicemen are dismissed, even if they cause trouble on leave.

Senior Home Office sources said the statement issued by Mr

Straw was designed to be used by firms to protect themselves from legal action by workers against unfair dismissal if they appealed to tribunals over sackings after the World Cup.

Mr Straw said: "Clearly employers will have to look at the particular circumstances but they may well want to consider the impact of the behaviour of those individuals on the reputation of their businesses and their suitability to deal with customers and their fellow workers."

The statement was agreed

with the CBI. Adair Turner, director general of the CBI, said that if employers believed that "proven hooliganism" could impact on their business then they "may wish to instigate a range of appropriate actions".

A Whitehall source said: "What we have got to do is name and shame these people and make it clear that they cannot rip across the Channel to cause mayhem, thinking they can get away with it."

Mr Blair's decision to call on firms to sack employees found guilty of offences connected

with soccer hooliganism was a clear attempt to deter the troublemakers from causing more mayhem on Monday.

But it was also seen as an admission of failure by the authorities to stop the troublemakers travelling to the World Cup. Mr Straw explained to Mr Blair in his private talks that some of the troublemakers had not been on the police computers, had no police records, and were not known football hooligans. In those circumstances, it was almost impossible to stop them travelling abroad.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, has tabled amendments to the Crime and Disorder Bill currently going through Parliament to enable police to apply to a magistrate for a restriction order against a fan if they have good reason to believe the individual is likely to cause trouble. But Home Office sources said the measure could not be introduced for the World Cup.

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CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

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The US spent \$2bn to bolster the sagging yen for the first time in more than six years

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Batsman Steve James is set to make his England Test debut today at the age of 30

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Disfiguring side effects have appeared in some Aids patients, raising concerns about the safety of "miracle" drugs that have transformed the outlook for sufferers from the disease. Page 6

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The Bar Council mounted a rear-guard action to protect the controversially large fees earned in criminal legal aid cases by senior barristers. Page 7

Manchester's schools criticised

Manchester city council has no idea what happened to 140 excluded pupils, according to a highly critical inspectors' report published today. Page 8

Pregnancy warning over peanuts

Pregnant women who suffer from allergies have been advised to avoid eating peanuts to protect their unborn children from developing a lethal allergy. Page 9

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Protest as Taliban shuts schools

Afghanistan's Taliban religious army has shut down more than 100 private schools, many of them educating girls. Page 13

Boost for Clinton's China policy

Three former presidents have put their weight behind President Clinton's policy of engagement with China in an open letter addressed to Congress. Page 14

HK suffers first fall in race bets

Horse race betting volumes are down in Hong Kong for the first time ever. Page 6

BUSINESS NEWS

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Thorn exits US with £545m sale

Thorn took a significant step forward when it announced the sale of its American business for a higher than expected figure of £545m. Page 17

Carlton's £160m move into discs

Carlton Communications took a further step into the world of cutting-edge entertainment technology by paying £160m for Nimbus Technologies, a leading manufacturer of video discs. Page 18

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Stimpson to take on Lomu

England have handed Tim Stimpson the task of marking the formidable Jonah Lomu in Saturday's rugby union Test against the All Blacks. Page 23

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The French tennis player Cedric Pioline was thrown out of the Nottingham Open after he apparently swore at the umpire following a controversial decision. Page 26

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Hamish McRae

'If you stand back and look at France's international position, there are great strengths that will serve it well. There are also serious problems.' Page 3

Max Clifford

'If Louise wants to win yet more friends and influence the undecided, she should tell her story to everyone, without restriction or fee.' Page 4

David Aaronovitch

'People who use "parent" as a verb are probably those who buy magazines with articles about where to take vegetarianism during the summer holidays.' Page 5

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Huge tax break for bankers

TONY BLAIR was accused of creating new Labour "fat cats" last night after it emerged that partners in a city merchant bank and even the Paymaster-General could gain millions from the tax reforms of the Chancellor Gordon Brown.

The 34 United Kingdom partners of Goldman Sachs could be collectively £500m better off if they hang on to their shares in the bank for 10 years after it is floated on the stock market, a financial analyst has calculated. One of the partners is Gavyn Davies, an adviser to the Chancellor.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General, could get a £2.1m tax break if he chose to sell his company, Transtech, in 10 years' time, plus a further £1.5m if he sold his five homes.

The changes, announced in the March Budget, were denounced by MPs from all parties yesterday for penalising small business owners while helping the very rich.

Under the new rules, entrepreneurs and shareholders pay progressively less capital gains tax (CGT) if they sell up, from 40 per cent down to 24 per cent over 10 years. Those who own more than 5 per cent of their companies can reduce the tax bill to 10 per cent. However, small business owners who sell up on retirement will now have to pay tax on their gains, instead of only on those worth more than £250,000.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, told Mr

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

Blair at question time that the reform would benefit a few rich businessmen at the expense of public services.

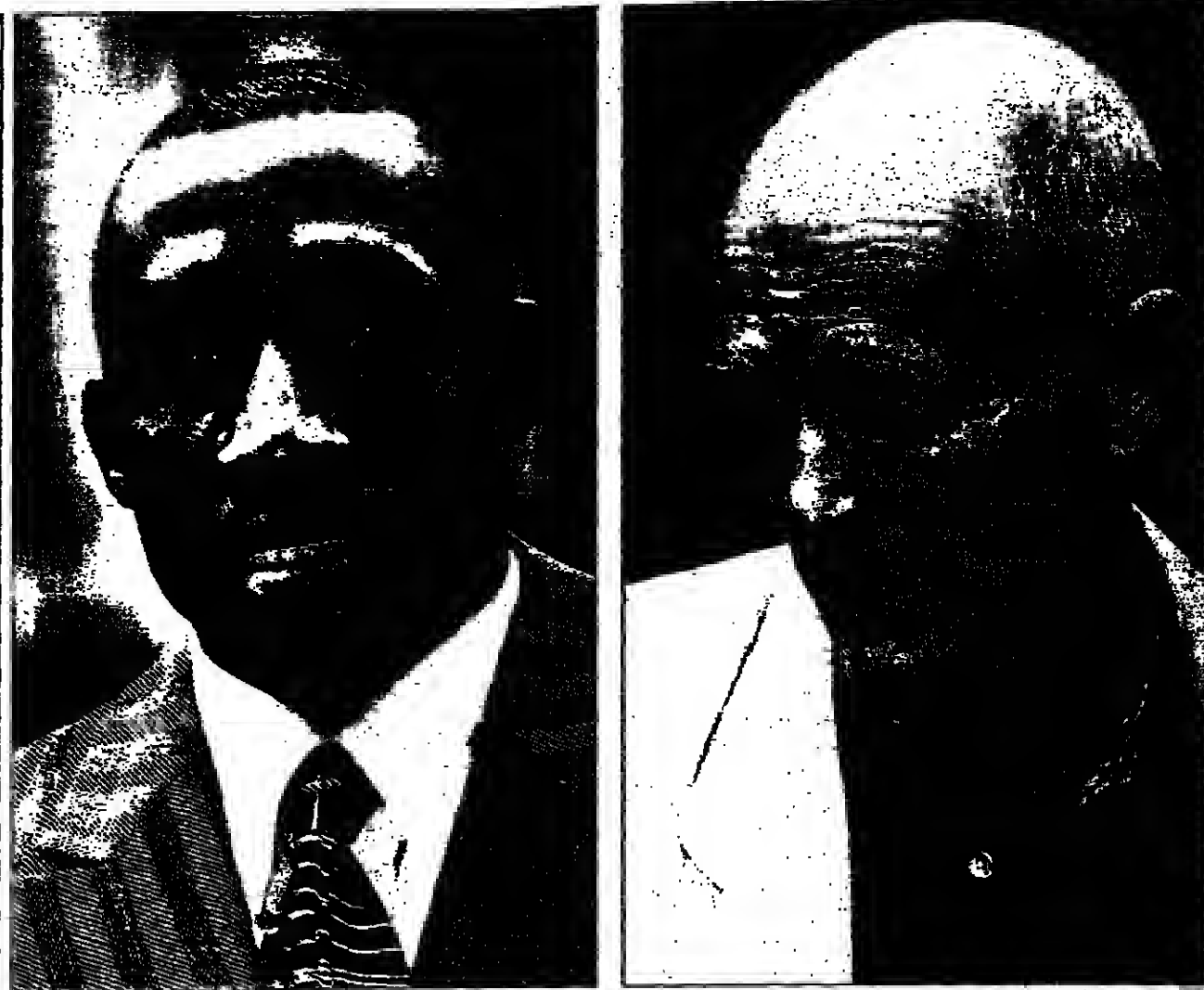
"The Prime Minister has said there are some hard choices to be made. This is surely an easy one. Spend rather more money on providing decent public services for the many and less on large tax breaks for the few," he said.

Mr Blair described the accusation as "nonsense". "I think the vast majority of people support this because it will encourage long-term investment in business and industry," he said.

The revelation also brought criticism from some Labour members. At a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party attended by the Chancellor, the MP for Pendle, Gordon Prentice, asked what ordinary voters would think of Goldman Sachs' partners making more than £50m each from their flotation. The richest 5 per cent of people still held almost four-fifths of the wealth, he said.

"What kind of perception would people have outside about this very big discrepancy in wealth?" he asked later.

David Heathcote-Amory, the Conservative Treasury spokesman, said the Conservatives had considered this tax measure and rejected it. "It's a fat-cat benefit charger and it's massively regressive," he said.



Linford Christie (right) who took the stand yesterday in his libel case against former convict John McVicar (left)

Christie's silence in court

BY JOHN DAVISON

LINFORD CHRISTIE suddenly went completely silent, putting his hand to his face, as he sat in the witness box yesterday at the start of a libel trial where he is denying claims he may have taken performance-enhancing drugs.

"Why am I here?" the former 100-metre world champion finally asked.

He had just begun giving evidence when, for longer than it used to take him to cover 100 metres, he stayed stock still while the High Court judge and his barrister, Patrick Maloney QC, asked if he was all right. At last, he took a sip of water but could say nothing.

Court adjourned for five minutes and still having difficulties and breathing deeply, Christie, 38, managed to explain to his barrister: "I sat here and I thought, why am I here?"

"The only thing I may be guilty of is to go out there and do my best to make people feel good about themselves."

Mr Maloney went on to ask Christie, who had passed more

than 100 drug tests, initially failed one at the 1988 Seoul Olympics before being cleared.

Christie said the substance may have come from ginseng, which is not banned. "In one year," he added, "the Sports Council named me as their most tested athlete. I think I was tested 18 or 19 times."

He described how as a youngster he never heard the national anthem played when the medals were presented. "I said I am going to work so hard so that when they hear an anthem it's going to be British. I

worked my arse off. I worked hard, and then I've got to sit here and have people accuse me of cheating," he said. "What did I do wrong?"

Christie, has brought the libel case against John McVicar - a former armed robber and escaped convict turned journalist - who was described in court as having once been Britain's most wanted man.

He wrote an article in the defunct satirical magazine *Spike* in September 1995 titled "How did Linford get this good?"

The case continues.

Riot trial collapses against Campfield asylum-seekers

THE TRIAL of nine asylum-seekers charged with rioting in Britain's biggest immigration detention camp, which is run by Group 4, collapsed yesterday.

The Crown Prosecution Service is understood to have withdrawn its evidence after becoming concerned at the quality of information provided by private security guards.

The Home Office said it was too early to say whether ministers would order an inquiry into Group 4's handling of the case.

Nine West African men were arrested after a riot at Campfield House detention centre, near Oxford, last August. They were on trial for 13 days at Oxford Crown Court and had faced sentences of up to 10 years for riot and violent disorder.

Nicholas Jarman, speaking for the prosecution, told the court yesterday that the case was essentially based on evidence from security officers on duty during the incident and that "no prosecution properly conducted could or should involve a jury to convict on the basis of this evidence".

The jury had heard that Group 4 staff were attacked with dumbbells, a kitchen was wrecked, a shop looted, and the library set alight. It took Group 4 riot squads with shields and batons and police officers with dogs to restore order.

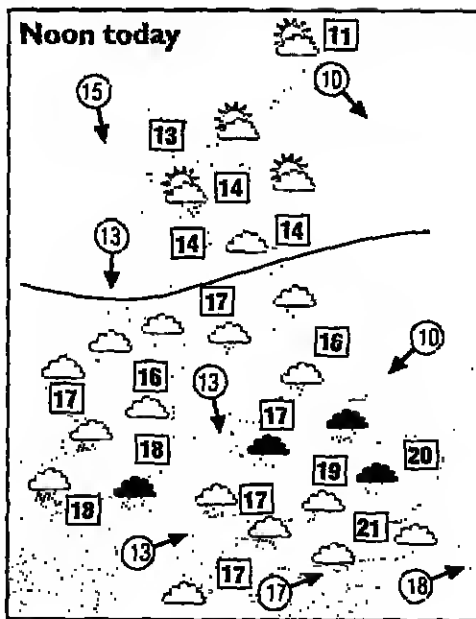
Much of the evidence was recorded on security cameras, but during the trial Group 4 officers repeatedly contradicted themselves or said they could have been mistaken. They gave the names of defendants and other detainees confusedly.

Seven of the defendants are claiming asylum as environmental protesters or political opponents of the Nigerian or Ghanaian governments.

One of the nine has twice tried to commit suicide, following the trial's collapse, were freed, having been given permission to return to Britain. The other five will be taken back into detention while their cases are examined.

One of the defendants, Nigerian Sunny Odeh, said: "Justice has been done. He said he was not surprised the case had collapsed."

BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK

England and Wales will have a dull morning with rain and extensive mist over west-facing coasts and hills. The rain will become lighter during the afternoon with the chance of a little brightness in some southern areas. Where it does brighten, it will feel fairly warm and muggy. Northern Ireland and the southern half of Scotland will also be mainly cloudy with rain never too far away, but northern Scotland is expected to be bright with sunny spells and just isolated showers.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Tomorrow will start misty in many parts of England and Wales, but some hot sun will break through away from western coasts. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will brighten up after early rain, but northern Scotland will turn damp after a fine start. The weekend will be hot and humid in England and Wales, but with a risk of thunderstorms. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be warmer with some sun and a few showers.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	22.05	10	04.47
Birmingham	21.33	11	04.44
Bristol	21.30	10	04.53
Glasgow	22.56	10	04.39
London	21.21	10	04.45
Manchester	21.41	10	04.39
Newcastle	21.42	10	04.27

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	08.39	6.4	20.54	6.3
Liverpool	08.00	8.4	18.42	5.0
Avonmouth	01.39	11.3	14.10	11.0
Hull (North Dock)	-	-	13.11	7.7
Greenock	07.12	3.2	19.55	3.1
Dun Laoghaire	06.32	3.7	19.31	3.6

AIR QUALITY

Today's readings			
	NO ₂	Pollen	O ₃
London	Mod	High	Mod
S. England	Gd	High	Gd
Wales	Gd	High	Gd
C. England	Gd	High	Gd
N. England	Gd	Low	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Low	Gd
N. Ireland	Gd	Low	Gd

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	04.43
Sun sets:	21.21
Moon rises:	01.41
Moon sets:	14.10
New Moon:	24th June

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 1681 5000 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map (right). Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged.

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Wind: recent variable, light at night. Sea: calm. Sky: mainly clear, some light drizzle. Rain: 1-2mm in some areas.

Aberdeen	15	59
Anglesey	14	57
Ayr	15	59
Belfast	16	61
Birmingham	16	61
Blackpool	13	55
Bournemouth	16	61
Brighton	15	59
Bristol	15	59
Cardiff	15	59
Cardigan	15	59
Dover	17	63
Dublin	15	59
Edinburgh	17	63
Exeter	16	61
Glasgow	14	57
Guernsey	15	59
Jarvis	15	59
Isle of Wight	15	59
Isles of Scilly	15	59
Jersey	14	57
Leeds	13	55
Liverpool	18	64
London	13	55
Manchester	15	59
Newcastle	15	59
Oxford	14	57
Plymouth	17	63
Scarborough	16	61
Southampton	12	54
Stornoway	15	59
York	15	59

AIR QUALITY

Yesterday's readings			
	NO ₂	Pollen	O ₃
London	Mod	High	Mod
S. England	Gd	High	Gd
Wales	Gd	High	Gd
C. England	Gd	High	Gd
N. England	Gd	Low	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Low	Gd
N. Ireland	Gd	Low	Gd

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY

Low K will run east as Low M becomes slow moving. High D is stationary but High E will drift north-east.



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time

Alexandria	5.30	85	Cairo	5.25	77	Lima	5.28	68	Paris	5.15	55
Algeria	5.27	81	Caracas	5.43	83	Lisbon	5.26	79	Port of Spain	5.16	49
Amman	5.23	73	Cebu	5.15	59	London	5.23	73	Prague	5.16	81
Ankara	5.17	63	Colombo	5.18	59	Los Angeles	5.17	63	Singapore	5.11	52
Antwerp	5.18	64	Cordoba	5.19	64	Madrid	5.16	61	Tokyo	5.12	54
Athens	5.33	91	Dakar	5.28	84	Mexico City	5.26	78	Ulaanbaatar	5.23	73
Auckland	5.15	59	Dhaka	5.29	84	Manila	5.24	75	Yokohama	5.23	73
Bahia	5.40	94	Durban	5.40	94	Montevideo	5.24	75			
Bangkok	5.36	97	Harare	5.29	75	Nairobi	5.27	81			
Barcelona	5.26	79	Havana	5.32	86	Rangoon	5.27	81			
Belfast	5.22	72	Jerusalem	5.24	75	Seoul	5.10	50			
Bombay	5.19	66	Khartoum	5.30	86	Singapore	5.26	78			
Buenos Aires	5.18	64	Kuala Lumpur	5.31	81	Sydney	5.23	73			
Burgas	5.34	93	La Paz	5.24	73	Taipei	5.22	72			
Calcutta	5.21	70	London	5.23	73	Tel Aviv	5.25	77			
Cardiff	5.15	59	Manila	5.24	75	Tientsin	5.25	77			
Cardigan	5.15	59	Moscow	5.27	81	Tokyo	5.23	73			
Cardinal	5.15	59	New Delhi	5.28	82	Ulaanbaatar	5.23	73			
Cardiff	5.15	59	New York	5.31	81	Washington	5.19	66			
Cardiff	5.15	59	Osaka	5.26	78	Wellington	5.23	73			
Cardiff	5.15	59	Seoul	5.10	50	Zurich	5.18	64			
Cardiff	5.15	59	Singapore	5.26	78						

Steel doesn't grow on trees.

Think Wood

SO ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY, EVEN LAST YEAR'S AD IS RECYCLABLE.

Think Wood

The Timber Trade Federation, 25-27 Oxendon Street, London SW1V 4EL. Tel: 0171 462 1111. Fax: 0171 462 1112.

Inflation up, unemployment rising, house sales flat. Is there a recession on the way?

IS THE FIRST Labour Chancellor in nearly two decades on the verge of plunging the economy into recession? And if he is, why on earth is he letting the Bank of England's nine monetary eggheads loose to raise the cost of loans?

The impression given by recent headline figures is that Gordon Brown is steering straight towards a recessionary iceberg. Yesterday, for example, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose for the first time in two years.

At the same time, earnings growth has burst through the 5 per cent barrier, certain to make the bank's Monetary Policy Committee itch to increase interest rates again.

The prospect of still tougher interest levels when the jobless rate might be starting to rise brought a dismayed reaction from business and unions.

This has come on top of other recent news that the strong pound has brought exports growth to a halt. Manufacturing output is stagnant. Sales volumes on the high street are growing more slowly and what once looked like a

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

ruary to April was virtually the same as a year earlier, and has climbed only 4 per cent since the peak of the last business cycle in 1989. Employment in industry is flat, too.

Bill Good, managing director of Sterling Tubes, a Midlands-based manufacturer, said: "Manufacturing is taking the full pain and strain of the Government's fight on inflation."

"The rapid rise of the pound has seriously affected our margins. As a result, we have had to lay off 17 per cent of the workforce on one site - around 40 people."

There is little doubt that it is going to get worse. Export orders and confidence have tumbled. Recession will hit manufacturers and their workforce, especially in the parts of the country where industry is most concentrated.

Yet the Chancellor and the Bank of England can point to plenty of evidence on the other side of the scales.

For example, yesterday's figures showed a big increase of 61,000 in economy-wide employment in the latest quarter, while the more reliable survey-based measure of unemployment also fell, by 35,000. And economists warned the small rise in the claimant count could easily be a one-off blip rather than the start of a trend.

More worrying was the evidence that pay pressures are increasing. Average earnings rose by 5.2 per cent in the year to April, well above the limit compatible with the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

Even stripping out bonuses, which critics of the Bank of England like to do, private sector pay grew by 5 per cent. In fact, excluding the bonus element makes the trend look worse, as basic earnings have accelerated at an even steeper pace than the total.

Business is hitting back at the Government's exhortations to keep pay under control. Andrew Smith, the Employment minister, predictably said the figures sent "a sharp warning signal that responsibility all round on pay is called for".

John Entwistle, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, hit back. Speaking from the BCC's annual conference in Birmingham, he said: "Politicians do not have to nanny business to keep wages in check. The aim of business is to minimise costs but many increases are a necessary response to skills shortages in key areas."

The industry lobby likes to blame the earnings and inflation problem on financial services and information technology, the fastest-growing parts of the economy. Their fat cats make an easy target.

But even if it were true that earnings in manufacturing were languishing - and it is not, for they have picked up smartly too - pinning the blame for inflationary pressures on particular sectors is scarcely a knock-out argument. The two most buoyant areas, business and financial services and communications, account for 28 per cent of national output.

This is bigger than manufacturing, whose contribution to GDP is 23 per cent and shrink-



Dan Collins, whose Intergralis company boasts one of the highest growth rates in the IT sector Westley Hargrave

Prosperity and decline: two tales of a single town

BY MATTHEW BRACE
AND PIPPA CREAR

READING - the typical 1980's boom town - represents the two sides of the economy at the end of the Nineties. One is a centre for thriving high technology - the other a declining manufacturing base.

Over the last 15 years there has been a large influx of hi-tech companies re-locating to avoid astronomical London rents. Industrial estates now sprawl across the former grazing land between the town centre and the Thames. Computer firms such as Digital, NEC, Oracle and Microsoft have all moved here into Britain's own Silicon Valley.

Service industries, of which the computer, information technology and telecommunications companies are a part have grown to take in 74 per cent of the town's total workforce and are predicted to produce another 1.3 million jobs by 2000.

In the past three years, house prices have increased by 40 per cent. Tony Griffiths, director of the White Knights Estate Agency said that "property prices are considerably above the highest ever levels. It was an 'early to fall, quick to rise' scenario."

Unemployment in the Reading travel-to-work area stands at just 1.8 per cent, and salaries for IT consultancy jobs have gone up, in some cases by £10,000 in the past year.

The flipside to this success story has been a dramatic decline in manufacturing which employs just 13 per cent of the town's workforce but the Borough Council's economists have predicted further job losses by 2000.

The decline is obvious throughout the town. Ask anyone in Reading, whether they

be taxi drivers, office workers, or railway porters, and they will tell you the same story. "There is hardly any old traditional manufacturers left here - it's all glass and steel and blokes in posh suits."

One bastion of manufacturing sits on the Littlejohn's Lane industrial estate. John Crane UK Limited, which employs 77 people, has made mechanical seals for heavy industry on this site for 25 years and is still going strong but increasingly the company and its staff are aware of how the town's economy is changing.

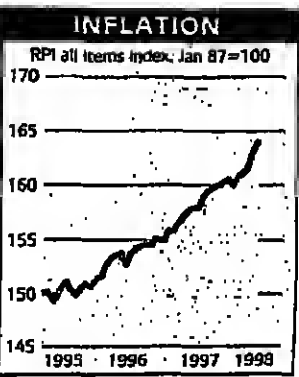
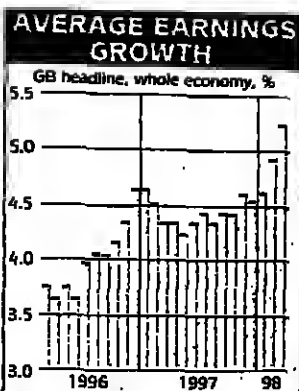
"We are up on our output targets," said Matthew Crib, a production supervisor at the factory. "We never have difficulty keeping our engineers because this is such a good company for employees but it is increasingly difficult to find good engineers."

He and his colleague Simon Lewis both believe more and more people when leaving school or going to University are tempted by the high wages offered in computing and other high tech industries and away from engineering.

"I have seen this town change, not only in the last nine or 10 years, but again in the past few months, from a town with more engineers and skilled workers to one with fewer as more people join the computer companies who come here to settle," he said.

Intergralis Network Systems boasts one of the highest growth rates in the burgeoning IT sector. Based in Fheale, on the outskirts of Reading, it has grown by more than 50 per cent in the last five years.

Managing Director Dan Collins expects Intergralis to continue to grow at its current rate. "The growth of the company is part of a general trend," he said.



housing bubble, at least in London, has petered out.

But it is pure nonsense to suggest that all this inevitably points to recession ahead. Although it would be as daft to rule it out entirely as it would be to say hurricanes never hit Britain, recession is less likely than the rather less attention-grabbing truth that we are in for - neither boom nor bust but something in between.

As Gerry Holtham, head of the Institute for Public Policy Research and a former City economist, put it: "For the pundits, it has to be either economic miracle or economic collapse. Nine times out of 10 it's neither."

Some bits of the British economy are doing badly while others are doing very nicely indeed. The debate is pitching the sufferers, mainly in industry - who want lower interest rates, a weaker pound and galloping growth to bail them out - against the far less vocal majority who would rather not have higher borrowing costs but can live with them.

On one side of the scales is manufacturing. Output in Feb-

ing. If there is a tail trying to wag the dog in the current policy debate, it is industry and not finance.

It is prospects for finance, business services such as accountancy and information technology that will probably preserve the economy from an outright recession.

Spending on IT, for example, is more than booming, and not just for the obvious reasons like the launch of the single currency and the millennium bug. There is also a huge backlog of business spending on upgrading software and computer systems and a massively expanding consumer market.

A spokeswoman for AIT Limited, an IT company based in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, which yesterday announced a 40 per cent surge in annual profits, said: "We've experienced no difficulties whatsoever. Costs are way down on our customers' lists of criteria."

The outlook for construction is also favourable. Although speculative office and retail developments are vulnerable to a loss of confidence,

the latest official figures show a strong upward trend in commercial building. Big infrastructure projects already planned or underway - not least the Dome - are also underpinning the industry.

Malcolm Clarke, contracts director of Kent-based Baxall Construction Limited, said: "We've been quite successful over the past year. There is a more confident business environment among our clients, and there has been a move towards greater efficiency within the industry."

"In fact we have been confident enough to increase the size of our organisation by around 15 per cent last year, and are looking for 5 to 10 per cent growth this year."

If a recession were obviously looming, Gordon Brown and the egg-heads would have an easy job. Their task is actually much harder: steering a course between the conflicting interests that make up a modern economy like Britain's.

Hong Kong slump worsens, page 16
Business, page 17

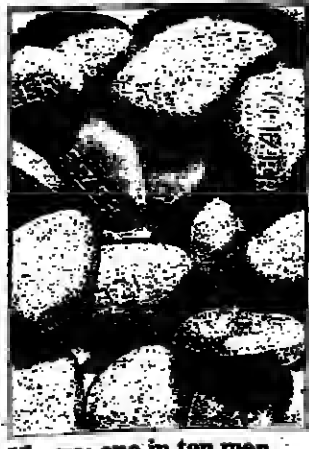
Viagra to be made available to all on the Health Service

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

VIAGRA, THE new drug treatment for male impotence, will be made available on the NHS once it is granted a UK licence, ministers have confirmed.

However, it was unclear yesterday whether restrictions will be imposed to limit prescriptions of the drug. In the US, 1.7 million prescriptions were written for Viagra in the two months following its launch last March. The drug costs £120 for a box of 30 pills.

Senior managers warn that if a free-for-all is allowed, with GPs given carte blanche to prescribe what some describe as a recreational drug, the NHS will be bankrupted. About 2.5 million men are estimated to suffer from impotence, one in ten of the adult male population. Impotence rises sharply with age to 89 per cent in men over 40 and 67 per cent in men over 70.



Viagra: one in ten men suffers from impotence

Tessa Jowell, Minister of State for Health, said if the drug was licensed, which is expected in September, it would be made available "to meet identified clinical need". One option open to the Government would be to restrict its prescription to hospital spe-

cialists to ensure that patients are properly examined and advised about the risk of side effects. Viagra has been linked with two dozen deaths and must not be used by patients taking nitrate drugs for heart conditions. Other expensive drugs such as beta-interferon for multiple sclerosis are restricted to consultant-only prescribing.

Professor John Henry, editor of the British Medical Association's *Guideline to Medicines and Drugs*, said: "GPs are often pressured by patients for drugs and they may give in and prescribe. To close that loophole it may be necessary to restrict Viagra to specialists who have the expertise to judge each case."

Ann Craig, director of the Impotence Association, said: "What the Government is worried about is that if people who don't need it get hold of it, it will cost the NHS a lot."

Viagra has made a contribution to Ireland's continuing economic boom, financial analysts said today. Record sales of the drug in the United States have ensured that Ireland's exports are continuing to soar.

A key ingredient of Viagra is produced by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, the drug's manufacturers, at their Irish base in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork.

Figures from Ireland's Central Statistics Office show that exports in the first three months of this year were 29 per cent higher than the same period in 1997, putting the country on course for a potential 12.5 per cent economic growth.

And the returns highlighted a 61 per cent rise in the export of organic chemicals - under which the Viagra ingredient is classified - in the early part of 1998, compared with the same months of the previous year. Leading article, Review, page 3

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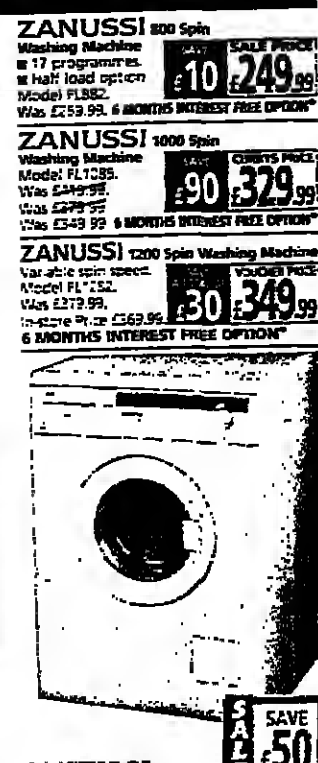
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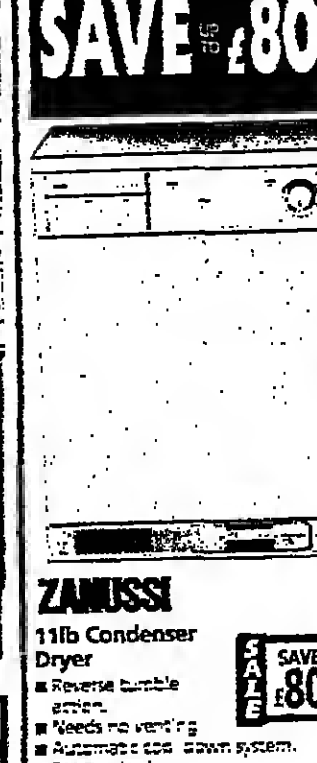
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Eappens aim to make Woodward pay

Dead child's parents seek damages and an injunction to stop convicted pair profiting from her crime

JUST ONE day after the highest court in Massachusetts ruled that British au pair Louise Woodward had reached the end of criminal proceedings in the death of Matthew Eappen, the first page was turned in a civil suit filed by the baby's parents.

Lawyers for Deborah and Sami Eappen went before the US District Court in Boston yesterday to initiate the case. As a first step, they asked Judge William Young to grant an instant injunction to bar Woodward from making any money from the tragedy through book, film or newspaper deals.

Over the longer term, the Eappens will be seeking compensation and punitive damages from Woodward. While the sums involved were not specified in the filing, they could theoretically run to tens of millions of dollars. Applying any ruling to Woodward in Britain, however, would be complicated.

The civil trial could last months and reopen many of the wounds from last year's criminal trial. Woodward was represented at yesterday's injunction hearing by a new lawyer who will represent her in the suit, a well-known Boston civil defence lawyer, Norman Zalkind.

The Eappen family have announced the creation of the "Matty Eappen Foundation". Any money won in the case, the family said, would go to the foundation to fund child abuse research.

"We want to do all we can so this never happens again," said Matthew's mother, Deborah Eappen. "If there is any financial gain from this case, it should all go toward educating people about child abuse, about shaken baby syndrome."

Mrs Eappen, who, with her husband was staying with relatives in Chicago yesterday, added: "There is right and there is wrong. It is wrong for her to profit in any way from what she did to Matty. What she did was wrong, for her to benefit financially would be so wrong."

The suit, which was filed on Monday less than two hours after the Supreme Judicial

FROM DAVID USBORNE
in Boston

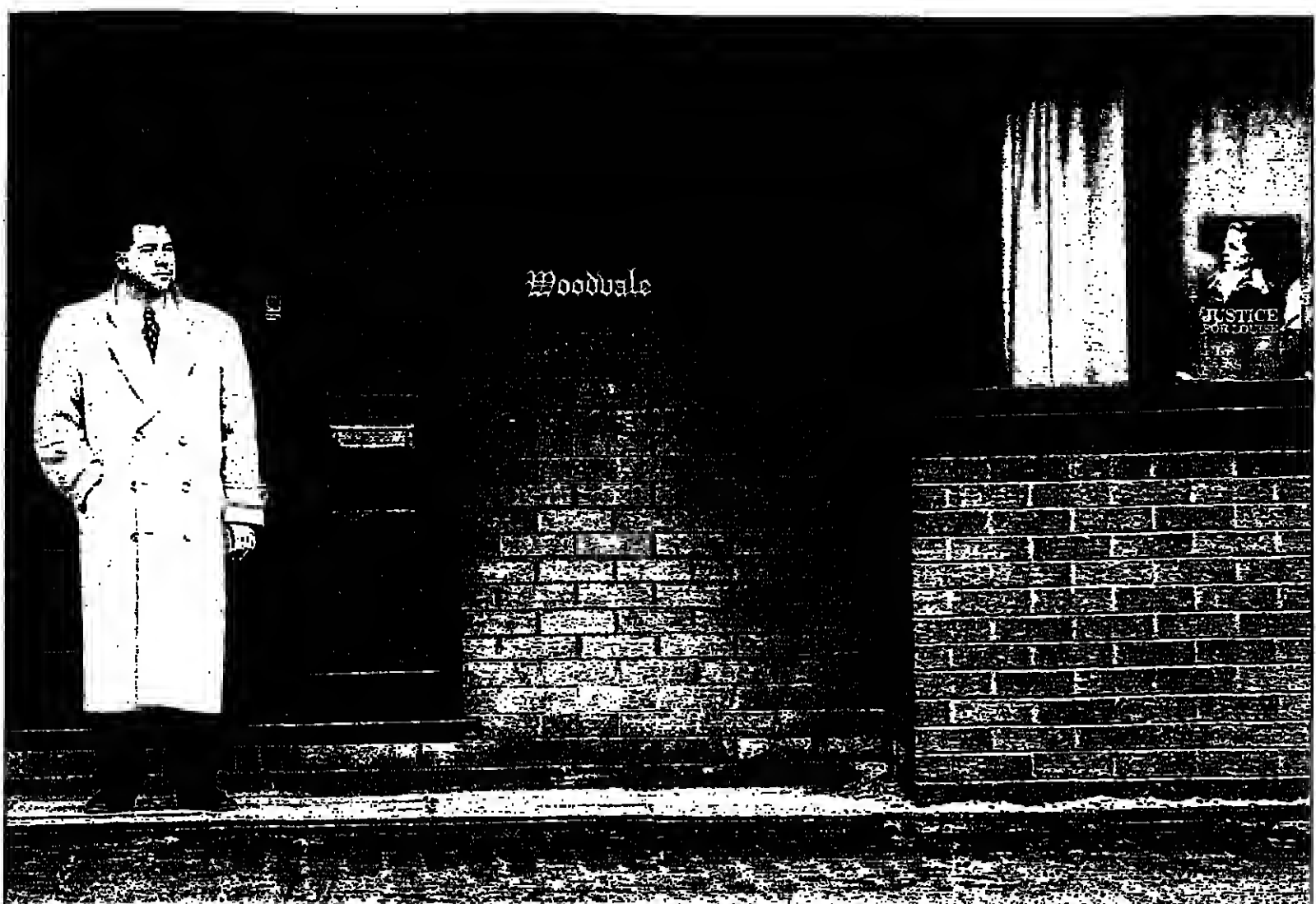
Court issued its ruling on the criminal case, raises echoes of the O J Simpson saga. He too faced civil wrongful death suits after his criminal trial and was finally ordered to pay damages totalling \$33.5m.

Winning a civil suit against Woodward should be much easier. Mr Simpson was acquitted of all criminal charges. Woodward faces her civil trial convicted of manslaughter. Moreover, while prosecutors in Woodward's criminal trial had to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the civil case need only demonstrate a "preponderance of evidence" that she was responsible for Matthew's death.

Whether the Eappens would prevail over Woodward once she is in Britain, beyond American jurisdiction, was less certain. Legal experts said the family, if they succeed in their US civil suit, would then have to go before a British court before any funds could be collected or before any ban on her making money from the case could be enforced.

Also ordered to appear at yesterday's injunction hearing was the junior lawyer who was sacked earlier this month from Woodward's defence team, Elaine Whitfield Sharp. In recent weeks, Ms Sharp has been cited in news reports as complaining that while Woodward was a lodger in her home she was working behind her back with her mother, Susan, to secure hook and newspaper contracts. The Eappen lawyers were expected to submit copies of British newspaper articles to the court purporting to detail efforts that the Woodward family may have made to secure such deals.

But Woodward's criminal lawyers insisted she had made no attempt to secure media deals. "It is really unfortunate that this is happening," Barry Scheck commented yesterday. "To my knowledge, there are no such plans and I don't think it's going to happen. Nothing like this has been done by anybody at all."



Andy, a minder, standing guard over the Woodward's home in the village of Elton yesterday

John Voos

She could be a nanny

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

High fees put fat-cat QCs in the dock

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

BARRISTERS YESTERDAY ridiculed claims that they should earn only £200,000 a year from legal aid. Sydney Kentridge QC, for the Bar Council, said that it was "verging on the absurd" to set such a limit on their take-home pay. The claim came as the barristers mounted a rear-guard action at an inquiry into the controversially large fees earned in criminal legal aid cases by senior QCs.

Four barristers, including the leading human rights lawyer Michael Mansfield QC, are the subject of the inquiry which began yesterday at the House of Lords, the highest court in the land, over bills they have submitted in such cases.

It was revealed that Mr Mansfield had his fee cut by the House of Lords taxing officer by 45 per cent - from £22,300 to £12,300 - for work done on an unsuccessful appeal last year against a murder conviction. In total, his team submitted a bill for £62,000 which was cut to £31,500.

But the clerk to the parliament, Michael Davies, felt that the Mansfield team's fees - together with legal-aid bills submitted by three other QCs involved in House of Lords appeals - were still too high.

Yesterday, five Law Lords began hearing evidence in a two-day inquiry into how such fees were calculated. Their ruling could have widespread implications for the legal-aid earnings of QCs, which critics have said are running out of control.

But the Bar Council, represented by Sydney Kentridge QC, one of the country's leading advocates, argued yesterday that the Law Lords should deal only with the four cases in question and said that they had no right to try to peg barristers' earnings to those of other professionals.

Mr Kentridge said: "The great majority of the members of the bar who do legal aid work, work very, very hard for a remuneration which is accepted as reasonable but certainly is not extravagant."

But Lord Browne-Wilkinson, chairing the hearing, said evidence had been submitted that there had been "enormous growth" in legal aid fees, which were rising at a rate "miles above inflation". He said it appeared that the whole system of fixing fees may need to be reformed.

The inquiry heard that evidence submitted by the Lord Chancellor's Department showed that legal aid earnings in the year 1995-96 had reached £266m, an increase of £100m from the previous year.

Lawrence Collins, solicitor ad-



Michael Mansfield QC leaving the inquiry in south London into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, in which he is acting for the black teenager's family - Tom Pilon

vocate representing the Law Society, submitted evidence suggesting that the earnings of top barristers should be brought into line with leading hospital consultants.

Mr Collins said that consultants could earn around £200,000 a year, including the value of pension and other benefits, which would be suf-

ficient incentive to ensure that barristers did not leave the profession.

Mr Kentridge had argued that such comparisons could not be carried out by taxing officers - the trained assessors who vet every legal-aid bill - or the Law Lords.

"The idea that a taxing master in fixing a fee for a particular case

should take into account what the proper standard income should be for a barrister is verging on the absurd," he said. "Not only that, [that] he should inform himself of what surgeons should earn goes over the line of absurdity."

"It is no doubt a proper investigation for the Lord Chancellor, Treas-

ury, government or parliament. It is the sort of matter which a commission of inquiry should go into. But it can't even be gone into by a taxing master. It can't even be gone into by a court, not even by your Lordships."

He said that the fees in most criminal legal aid cases were subject to a graduated fees structure. Only six

to ten cases a year were referred for appeal to the House of Lords and the taxing officers were fully capable of assessing whether fees claimed amounted to "reasonable remuneration". He said the system was not in need of reform. The taxing officers who judged such claims did "not merely bark, they bite", he said.

CASES WHERE BILLS WERE CUT

Michael Mansfield's team submitted a bill for £62,000 following a three-day appeal hearing against the murder convictions of Gary Mills and Tony Poole. The fee was cut in half to £31,500 by the House of Lords. The two men were convicted in 1990 of the murder of Hensley Wiltshire after a fight in a Gloucester squat. The appeal was dismissed. Mr Mansfield's personal fee was cut by the House of Lords taxing officer, James Vallance White, from £22,300 to £12,300. His junior counsel, Vera Baird, had her fees cut from £22,537.50 to £7,850.

Peter Reinberg QC submitted a £37,000 bill for an unsuccessful appeal which was heard over three days in February last year. His bill was cut by the House of Lords taxing officer to £16,000.

Richard Henriques QC claimed £28,500 for his work in a successful appeal in April of last year; his bill is being reviewed. He led the table of QCs earnings from legal aid in 1995-96 with more than £500,000. He was listed in the 1996-7 top 20 legal-aid earners, as earning between £350,000 to £399,000.

Christopher Sallon QC claimed £34,600 for his work in freeing Philip English, whose conviction and life sentence for the murder of police Sergeant Bill Forth was quashed. But after scrutiny by House of Lords officials he was only paid £21,600.

Spielberg tops the list of successful directors

BY STEVE BOGGAN

STEVEN SPIELBERG has emerged as the most successful film director of all time in a poll of 1,500 movie industry insiders and cinema buffs, including President Bill Clinton.

The poll, organised by the American Film Institute, ended predictably - with Orson Welles's *Citizen Kane* in the Number One slot - but Spielberg had no fewer than five titles in the top 100.

The director, who has often craved greater critical acclaim, saw his epic *Schindler's List* make the number nine position on the list while *ET - the Extra-*

Terrestrial was voted 25th. *Jaws* 48th, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* 60th and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* 64th.

Movie critics hailed *Schindler's List*'s ranking as a considerable achievement for Spielberg given that the other top 10 films had stood the test of time well. As well as *Citizen Kane* (1941), the other top 10 films were: *Casablanca* (1942); *The Godfather* (1972); *Gone With the Wind* (1939); *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962); *The Wizard of Oz* (1939); *The Graduate* (1967); *On the Waterfront* (1954); and *Singin' in the Rain* (1952).

The film institute refused to

say exactly who was on the list of 1,500 voters, how many votes each movie polled or what criteria were involved. It did say, however, that voters were asked to choose from 400 films dating back to 1912 - a silent version of *Richard III* - selected by its own panel of experts.

Alfred Hitchcock and Billy Wilder each had four films in the top 100. Hitchcock's entries were *Psycho* (18); *North by Northwest* (40); *Rear Window* (42) and *Vertigo* (61). Wilder's were *Sunset Boulevard* (12); *Some Like It Hot* (14); *Double Indemnity* (38) and *The Apartment* (93).

Most of the movies in the top

100 were dramas. In addition, there were 11 comedies, eight musicals, nine war movies, eight westerns, four science fiction films and four horror movies. Two were animated features, both from Disney, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (49) and *Fantasia* (58). Marlon Brando starred in two of the top 10 movies, *The Godfather* and *On the Waterfront*, while James Stewart and Robert DeNiro had the most starring roles in the top 100 with five each. The most successful actress was Katharine Hepburn with four films. Natalie Wood, Diane Keaton and Faye Dunaway had three each.

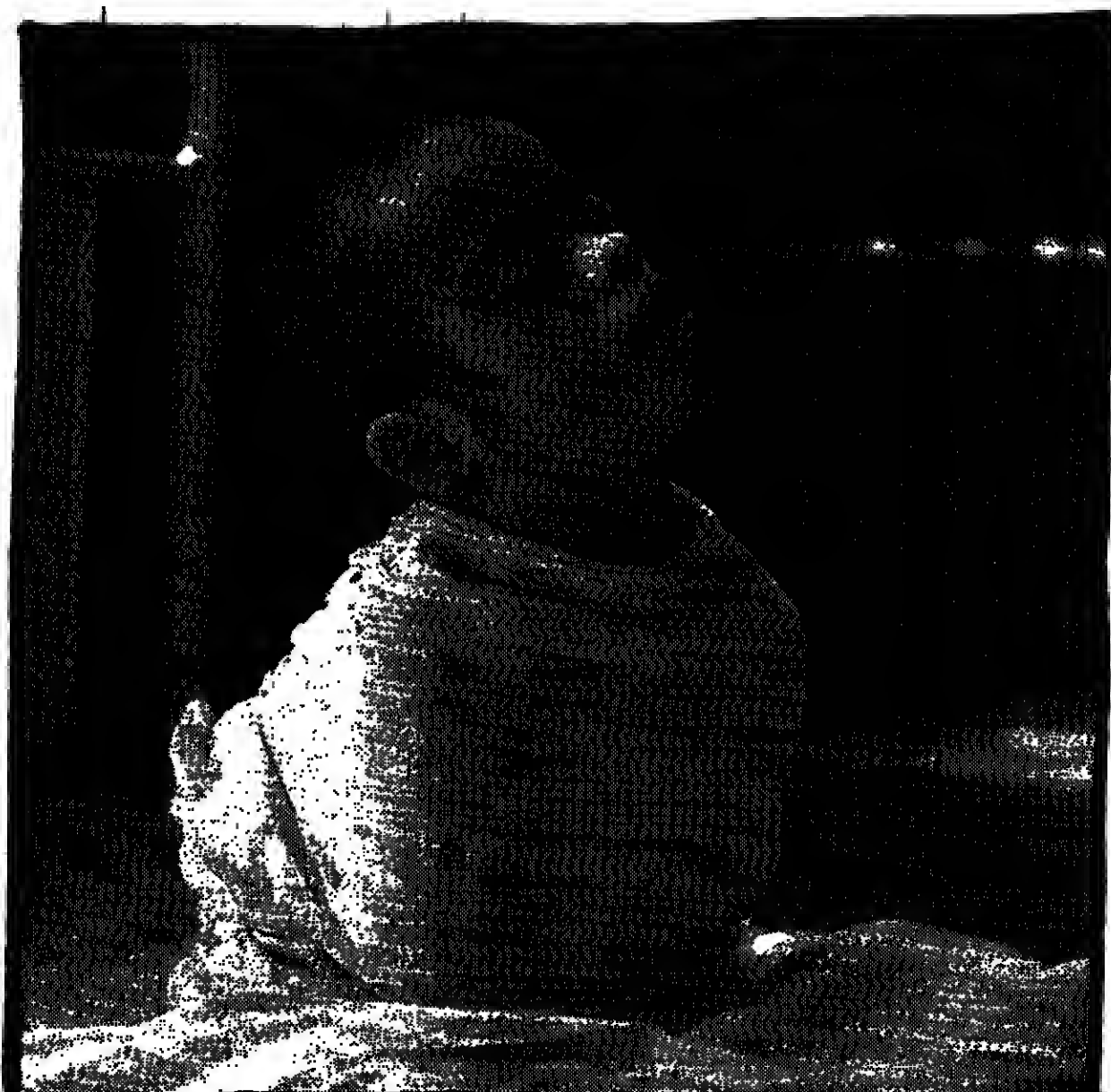
The critics' 100 best films

- 1 *Citizen Kane* 1941
- 2 *Casablanca* 1942
- 3 *The Godfather* 1972
- 4 *Gone With the Wind* 1939
- 5 *Lawrence of Arabia* 1962
- 6 *The Wizard of Oz* 1939
- 7 *The Graduate* 1967
- 8 *On the Waterfront* 1954
- 9 *Schindler's List* 1993
- 10 *Singin' in the Rain* 1952
- 11 *It's a Wonderful Life* 1946
- 12 *Sunset Boulevard* 1950
- 13 *The Bridge on the River Kwai* 1957
- 14 *Some Like It Hot* 1959
- 15 *Star Wars* 1977
- 16 *All About Eve* 1950
- 17 *The African Queen* 1951
- 18 *Psycho* 1960
- 19 *Chinatown* 1974
- 20 *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* 1975
- 21 *The Grapes of Wrath* 1940
- 22 *2001: A Space Odyssey* 1968
- 23 *The Maltese Falcon* 1941
- 24 *Raging Bull* 1980

- 25 *ET: the Extra-Terrestrial* 1982
- 26 *Dr Strangelove* 1964
- 27 *Bonnie and Clyde* 1967
- 28 *Apocalypse Now* 1979
- 29 *Mr Smith Goes to Washington* 1939
- 30 *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* 1948
- 31 *Vertigo* 1958
- 32 *The Godfather Part II* 1974
- 33 *High Noon* 1952
- 34 *To Kill a Mockingbird* 1962
- 35 *It Happened One Night* 1934
- 36 *Midnight Cowboy* 1969
- 37 *The Best Years of Our Lives* 1946
- 38 *Double Indemnity* 1944
- 39 *Doctor Zhivago* 1965
- 40 *North by Northwest* 1959
- 41 *West Side Story* 1957
- 42 *Rear Window* 1954
- 43 *King Kong* 1933
- 44 *The Birth of a Nation* 1915
- 45 *A Streetcar Named Desire* 1951
- 46 *A Clockwork Orange* 1971

- 47 *Taxi Driver* 1976
- 48 *Jaws* 1975
- 49 *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* 1937
- 50 *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* 1969
- 51 *The Philadelphia Story* 1940
- 52 *From Here to Eternity* 1953
- 53 *Amadeus* 1984
- 54 *All Quiet on the Western Front* 1930
- 55 *The Sound of Music* 1965
- 56 *M-A-S-H* 1970
- 57 *The Third Man* 1949
- 58 *Fantasia* 1940
- 59 *Rebel Without a Cause* 1955
- 60 *Raiders of the Lost Ark* 1981
- 61 *Vertigo* 1958
- 62 *Tootsie* 1982
- 63 *Stagecoach* 1939
- 64 *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* 1977
- 65 *The Silence of the Lambs* 1991
- 66 *Network* 1976
- 67 *The Manchurian Candidate* 1962
- 68 *An American in Paris* 1951
- 69 *Shane* 1953
- 70 *The French Connection* 1971

- 71 *Forrest Gump* 1994
- 72 *Ben-Hur* 1959
- 73 *Wuthering Heights* 1939
- 74 *The Gold Rush* 1925
- 75 *Dances With Wolves* 1990
- 76 *City Lights* 1931
- 77 *American Graffiti* 1973
- 78 *Rocky* 1976
- 79 *The Deer Hunter* 1978
- 80 *The Wild Bunch* 1969
- 81 *Modern Times* 1936
- 82 *Giant* 1956
- 83 *Platoon* 1986
- 84 *Duck Soup* 1933
- 85 *Musing on the Bounty* 1935
- 86 *Frankenstein* 1931
- 87 *Easy Rider* 1969
- 88 *Paton* 1970
- 89 *The Jazz Singer* 1927
- 90 *My Fair Lady* 1964
- 91 *A Place in the Sun* 1951
- 92 *The Apartment* 1960
- 93 *Goodfellas* 1990
- 94 *Pulp Fiction* 1994
- 95 *The Searchers* 1956
- 96 *Bringing Up Baby* 1938
- 97 *Unforgotten* 1992
- 98 *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* 1967
- 99 *Yankee Doodle Dandy* 1942



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THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

8/HOME NEWS

Manchester crisis: Ofsted inspectors criticise authority for neglecting duty by losing track of excluded children

The city that lets down its pupils

ONE OF England's largest local education authorities has failed in its legal duty because it has no idea what happened to 140 excluded pupils, according to a highly critical inspectors' report published today.

In response, Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, told Manchester City Council to take urgent action to protect some of its most vulnerable children.

Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education found that the city, which has a statutory duty to ensure that all its children receive schooling, was unable to say what education was being provided for 140 excluded pupils. Yet there are 12,000 surplus places in Manchester which cost the authority about £2m a year.

The report, the first in a programme of local authority inspections carried out under new powers introduced last year, catalogues a series of failures. While there is "glamour and affluence" in the regenerated city centre, that is not matched in struggling districts where some of the poorest people in England are concentrated.

Inspectors say:

■ Too many pupils are truanting too frequently.

■ School budget deficits are £6.2m, the highest in England.

■ Exclusions are running at 10 a day with one school temporarily excluding 782 pupils in three years.

■ Standards of achievement are low.

■ The duty to meet the needs of children with special educational problems is being breached.

Despite recent improve-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

ments in its schools and teaching standards which are higher than the national average, the city was 110th out of 132 local education authorities last year in English tests at 11 and 12th for GCSE performance.

Attendance is running at 84 per cent in secondary schools, nearly 7 per cent below the national average, and too many truanting pupils are simply removed from school rolls.

Mr Byers said: "There are 70,000 children being educated in Manchester schools. They need a far better deal than they are getting." He demanded a report within a month on how the authority intended to meet its statutory responsibilities.

But senior government sources pointed out that the report was less damning than last year's on the borough of Hackney in east London.

Inspectors note that there is "no mistaking the political will for change and improvement" in Manchester. They also paint a stark picture of social problems in a city where 40 per cent of children are in households where no one has a job.

Richard Leese, the city council's leader, said they would respond positively but added that the report "would not win any prizes for the quality of its research". He added: "Exclusion is not a problem unique to Manchester. It has been identified as a major problem by the Government and the Prime Minister has committed himself to helping local education authorities tackle the problem."

Mr Taylor, 54, has been head of South Manchester High School in Withenshaw for 10



South Manchester High School has a glowing Ofsted report, but it was earned against all the odds, the head teacher says

John Voos

'The council needs a kick up the rear'

THE PUDDLES were deep and wide on the approach to the school. Its flat roofs were heavy with rain water.

"We leak and we flood whenever there is a downpour like the one we had today," said head teacher Phil Taylor.

"The roofs are the responsibility of the local education authority and if money for the repairs has already been spent, it's gone, unless we find it ourselves," he added.

Mr Taylor, 54, has been head of South Manchester High School in Withenshaw for 10

years. He heard the news of the damning school inspectors report on how Manchester City Council runs its education service without any obvious surprise. "Whenever a school is deemed to be failing the head is usually forced to resign. Perhaps council officers and politicians should be considering their position now. And why not?" he asked.

His own school, with 450 pupils and a budget of about £1m, has a glowing Ofsted report, recording good progress in all classes, that was earned,

he said, against all the odds. More than a third of his students have special needs. For example, 94 per cent of pupils who enter the school have little or no ability of that age. Truancy was a problem, he said, but it was one that could not be blamed on the school.

"Schools are held responsible for absenteeism, but the reasons for absenteeism are often beyond our control, such as poverty and unemployment. A lot of absenteeism is condoned by parents, who will keep a child

at home because they need help in the family, maybe because of sickness or to look after the younger ones."

But exclusions are rare. "We have a code which sets down the boundaries of behaviour accepted by students and parents," said Mr Taylor. "It works well and when we first launched it we had 200 enquiries from other schools, including some from abroad."

The school faces amalgamation with another small school because it has surplus places. "One good thing about

being half-empty is that it gives us room to move about if we have trouble with flooding or a leak," added Mr Taylor.

But intake is up by 40 per cent for next year because of their latest Ofsted report, said Mr Taylor, which highlights good classroom relationships, teachers' trust and respect for pupils, and students in turn feeling valued and having a sense of self-worth. Parents' response to the Government's verdict on the city's education service has been almost wholehearted agreement.

Linda Fleming, 43, who has a son Ryan, 11, who is about to go to secondary school, said the council needed a "kick up the rear". She added: "I'm concerned that so much money can be spent on a place like the new Arndale Centre and yet so many of our schools are in such bad condition."

Beverly Dore, 41, said she was concerned for the future of her eight-year-old son Scott. "I am worried about what there is for him at school if it can't manage the problems of truancy and exclusions."

THE WORST SCHOOLS

How Manchester's worst three state schools fare in terms of number of pupils; % of pupils with 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C; and truancy (% half-days lost).



North Manchester High School for Boys
Pupils - 696; GCSEs - 8%; truancy - 0.1%



Moston Brook High School
Pupils - 494; GCSEs - 41%



Spurley Hey High School
Pupils - 697; GCSEs - 41%

Manchester average
GCSEs 26.3%; truancy 2.9%
National average
GCSEs 45.1%; truancy 10%
(Source: 1997 performance tables)

Eco-warriors' protests 'risking super weeds'

ENVIRONMENTAL protesters who tear up fields of genetically-modified (GM) crops could be helping to create the "super-weeds" that they fear the Government warned yesterday.

So far this year, 21 trial sites of GM plants in Britain have been hit by "eco-warriors". That latest was an attack by Fife Earth First! on a field of genetically-modified oilseed rape resistant to herbicide on an Edinburgh farm. Protesters tore up plants in a field to form a giant "X" shape hundreds of feet across, and left behind an "X-files" flag.

But the Department of the Environment (DoE) warned that if the plants have already blossomed and produced pollen, then people who walk in and out of the fields could inadvertently carry that pollen outside the "boundary separa-

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

tion areas". There it would be able to cross-breed with other plants and weeds, potentially creating new weeds resistant to herbicides.

"The eco-warriors may be themselves responsible for something that they are against," said a spokesman.

Biotechnology companies are stepping up security around their experimental fields of genetically-modified (GM) crops, after the Edinburgh protest. Some are considering whether to lobby the Government to change the rules on trials of GM plants, so locations can be kept secret.

But the DoE said yesterday that that would be impossible, because EC law insists that the locations must be published, and

the Government would not be sympathetic to calls for change.

Biotechnology companies are left in a quandary, since there are tests of GM plants running at about 300 locations around Britain. Each one is identified with a map reference in a public register that is published on the Internet.

"The only way to ensure their security would be a 24-hour guard," said Des D'Souza, biotechnology project director at AgriEvo UK, based in King's Lynn.

"For most companies that's not practicable, especially if you have a number of sites." He did hint though that security at the company's sites - which have been among those hit - had been increased.

However, Martin Ward, general manager of Advanced Technologies Cambridge (ATC), one of 14 companies

running trials of GM crops in Britain, said: "I think that there is an argument that people don't need to know which field a trial is in."

He said that eco-protests were unproductive: "They argue that we need to know more about these plants - that is what these trials are trying to show. We're never going to get anywhere if every time we put them in a field, it gets ripped up."

But Matthew Herbert of Fife Earth First! responded: "If somebody suggested we should take an unknown substance and test its toxicity to humans by feeding it to people, you'd think they were mad. We can't release genetic pollution into the wider environment and then say it's not safe later. Genetic pollution is invisible and keeps spreading."

Universities look to GCSEs

APPLYING TO a top university such as Oxford or Cambridge? Forget it unless you have a string of A grades at GCSE.

An investigation by the Independent's Education section shows that the 16-plus exam, not A-level, increasingly holds the key to university entrance.

One independent school head this year received a letter from an Oxbridge don who said that it was beginning to look as though very few students would be accepted in future without a full set of A grades at GCSE, particularly if they came from independent schools.

Stephen Smith of Bedford Modern School for boys, who received the letter, said: "You want to make sure that if you're putting candidates in for Oxford and Cambridge they stand an

BY JUDITH JUDD

equal chance." The message for the 600,000 16-year-olds at present in the final stages of their GCSE exams is clear: first-rate A-levels may no longer be enough to secure an offer from the top universities.

Students usually apply for university two terms before they take their A-levels so the only public examination results they have are GCSEs.

Boys' schools are particularly worried about the trend because boys do worse at GCSE than girls. Martin Stephen, head of Manchester Grammar School, said that some of the top universities were in danger of selecting "little goody two shoes without flair and creativity".

Warning to boys, Education

Memory split uncovered

SCIENTISTS HAVE shown that short-term and long-term memories are distinctly different states of mind, raising the prospect of developing smart drugs to help victims of senile dementia.

Brain researchers have argued for nearly a century about whether short-term memory - remembering where you left the car keys - was just a step in a sequence of events leading to long-term memory, remembering what type of car you have for example.

A new study has finally shown that remembering events over a short period of time involves quite separate chemistry in the brain to that needed for storing long-term memory.

A team led by Ivan Izquier-

BY STEVE CONNOR

do, a neuroscientist from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, has demonstrated for the first time that short-term and long-term memories work quite independently of one another.

In experiments on laboratory animals the researchers were able to block short-term memory with drugs that had no effect on long-term memory. The details are published today in the journal *Nature*.

Scientists want to work out how short-term memories are transferred into the long-term databanks of the brain in order to develop smart drugs that can help the process.

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Warning to mothers over nut allergy

PREGNANT AND breast-feeding women were yesterday warned not to eat peanuts if they or their immediate families suffered allergies, amid fears for their babies' lives.

The advice was issued by the Committee on the Toxicity of Food in a report on the growth of peanut allergy in Britain. It is expected to affect up to a third of pregnant and breast-feeding women.

The report said women who suffer from common conditions such as asthma, hay fever and eczema, or whose partners or other children suffer from them, could pass on the peanut allergy to their unborn babies.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, said the advice was precautionary but based on evidence suggesting fetuses and infants exposed to peanuts were more at risk of developing the allergy.

Peanut allergy is rare but deadly. It is estimated to strike one person in 200 and cause five to seven deaths a year. Children are particularly at risk.

Even very small amounts can trigger a severe reaction in sensitive individuals, resulting in anaphylactic shock.

Sir Kenneth said the risk of a mother sensitising her child during pregnancy or breast-feeding had to be considered due to the known genetic link.

"The committee is therefore advising that pregnant or

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

breast-feeding women who suffer from diagnosed allergic conditions, or where the father or any brother or sister of the child has a clinical history of such conditions, may wish to avoid eating peanuts and foods containing peanut products.

"There is no reason for pregnant or nursing mothers who do not fall into this category to avoid eating peanuts. Refined peanut oils or vegetable oils are unlikely to cause a problem."

Families who suffer allergies are being advised to prevent their children eating foods containing peanuts until they are three years old. And no child under five, irrespective of their family history, should be given whole peanuts due to the risk of choking, Sir Kenneth said.

Parents of affected children were urged to read labels carefully in case products contained traces of peanuts, and to avoid accidental cross-contamination when preparing food at home. The Ministry of Agriculture launched a campaign last November urging more care in labelling food containing peanuts.

Sir Kenneth added that eating peanuts remained safe for the "overwhelming majority" of the population.

"The advice will go a long way towards helping prevent the handful of dramatic and tragic deaths we do see each

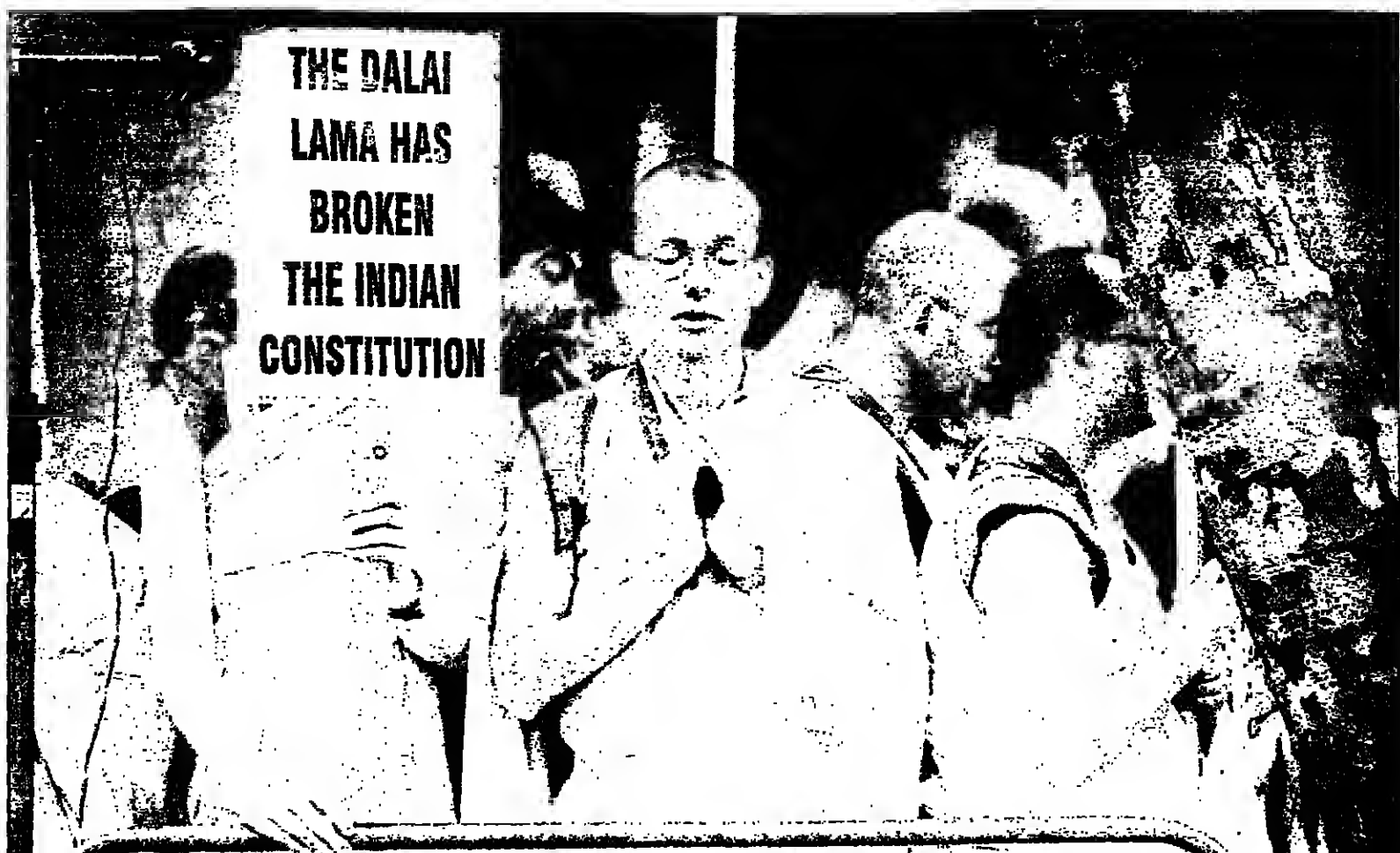
year and will, we hope, start to limit the growth of peanut allergy in this country.

"It is definitely an instance where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

David Reading, of the Anaphylaxis Campaign, welcomed the move, saying: "This is a good safe message. What we hope is that if this is followed, soon we will start to see the number of people suffering peanut allergies go down."

He added nobody need die if they avoided the nuts and made sure they carried the right medication, usually adrenaline, to treat a severe reaction.

Leaflets are being sent to all GPs with details of the advice.



Buddhist monks hold a vigil at the Indian High Commission in London yesterday to call on the Dalai Lama to lift his doctrinal ban on the Buddhist deity Dorje Shugden. The protesters say the ban contravenes Indian and international human rights legislation. Andrew Buurman

Dinosaur dung yields diet secrets

A RARE insight into the table manners of *Tyrannosaurus rex* - the biggest carnivore to stalk the land - is revealed today by a scientific analysis of the dinosaur's fossilised dung.

A loaf-sized fragment of ancient faeces, which scientists describe as "king size", shows that *T rex* crushed the bones of its victims into tiny fragments before swallowing each mouthful.

The fossil, called a coprolite, has also revealed that *T rex* was unlikely to have suffered from indigestion. Bone fragments in the faeces were only partially dissolved, indicating that the acids in the dinosaur's stomach were relatively weak.

It is the first time that scientists have been able to study fossilised faeces that they know have come from a *T rex*.

The fossil was found in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan in 1995 and the analysis is published in the journal *Nature*.

T rex - considered to be the king of the dinosaurs - left behind equally impressive calling cards. The "tremendous size" of the faecal mass meant it could only have come from the world's largest predator, the scientists said.

Timothy Tokaryk, a palaeontologist at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina, said the coprolite is the largest from any dinosaur and the first from a meat-eating species. "For the first time it gives us a greater insight into the internal workings of a creature that died more than 65 million years ago," he said.

"Before this coprolite was found we were still guessing from the front end of the animal what it did with its prey. Now we have confirmation from what it left behind."

T rex lacked grinding molar teeth, and so could not chew its food. The research confirms that it managed to pulverise each mouthful into tiny pieces

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

with the immense force of its bite acting on its huge peg-like teeth.

Analysis of the bones in the coprolite show *T rex*'s victim was probably a young herbivorous dinosaur that would have been about the size of a cow.

Dr Gregory Erickson, a palaeontologist at Stanford University in California, said the victim was probably an adolescent, which suggests that *T rex* was an active predator of healthy prey rather than a lumbering scavenger of old and sick



T Rex crushed bones before swallowing

animals, which some dinosaur experts have suggested.

Much of the crushed bone in the coprolite escaped damage, suggesting digestive juices of dinosaurs were very different from those of crocodiles, which dissolve the bones they eat.

Peter Andrews, a coprolite researcher at the Natural History Museum in London, believes the bone in the faecal matter is in such pristine condition that its DNA might be sufficiently preserved for molecular analysis.

"The study of fossil faeces may seem rather a strange subject, but it can reveal much about dinosaur behaviour," Dr Andrews said.



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LORD TEBBIT

'In the European Union our masters are intent on reducing independent nations into mere provinces of a state called Europe'

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 ➔

How Tony and friends put the world right in a weekend

THE PRIME Minister came to the House of Commons yesterday for his usual 30 minutes of questions but was kept in detention after school for an extra hour.

He had been playing truant for two days on a Euro-bash in Cardiff with his mates Jacques Santer, Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl and a few others who had come over for a long weekend.

They were having a party to mark the end of Mr Blair's six months as President of the European Union Council of Ministers.

The Speaker and the House authorities wanted him to give an account of this party and tell members of Parliament what had been

going on. Apparently they all had a splendid time in Cardiff. The hotel was comfortable and there was a TV and a mini bar in every room. "Cardiff itself looked marvellous and did great credit to Wales and this country," Mr Blair told the Commons.

I could have thought of better places to take my very important friends if I was President of the council, but it seemed Mr Blair inherited the hooking from the Tories. William Hague told him that he decided on Cardiff when he was Secretary of State for Wales.

It seemed that Mr Blair and his friends did not do much sightseeing, what with the recent bad

weather and the heavy rain meant they had to stay indoors most of the time. Nobody had remembered to bring any jigsaw puzzles so they just chatted about all the problems of the world - most of which they couldn't do anything about.

They chattered about a place called Kosovo which none of them wanted to visit. Things are in a dreadful state there. The hotel's not being what they were.

In fact, Mr Blair has written to complain to the head of the local tourist office (A fellow called Milosevic who has let the whole thing go to rack and ruin).

They had a good old natter about Turkey as part of what Mr Blair

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

called an "enlargement debate" but it seemed this all came to nothing. Similarly, they denounced India

and Pakistan, talked about drugs everywhere and crime getting out of hand. Anyway, after a couple of days they started getting on each others nerves. Helmut cut up rough about his share of the food and drinks bill and wanted his money back.

William Hague was jealous because he had not been invited and said it had all been a waste of time: "We know the Prime Minister has always wanted to be a president. What a shame he made a mess of it when he had the chance."

Mr Hague had read reports in all the foreign papers which said they had all had a dreadful time and the food was awful. Blair retorted that

he had read the foreign papers and they all said Helmut and Jacques had had a marvellous time.

Before Mr Blair's extra hour in the Commons it was business as usual for his regular question time.

Creep of the Week Award goes to Dr Tony Wright (Lab, Cannock) who asked the Prime Minister if he would congratulate himself on giving an honour to Geoff Hurst. Even Mr Blair cringed and the House groaned.

THOSE were the days, in the Wilson era, when England won the World Cup and the only riots were to avoid being kissed by Nobby Styles without his teeth in.

These days, our lads are made of sterner stuff. If we are to believe Alan Clark, they are fighting Johnnie Foreigner on the beaches, and in the car parks. These are the same heroic figures, according to Clark the historian, who defeated the French at Agincourt.

Today, Henry V would have sacked the lot after filling the breach. Quite right, Mr Clark heard the Prime Minister urging employers to give the hooligans the red card when they returned from their sojourn in France, and strode out with the air of the Man who Brule the Bank at Monte Carlo. I wonder whether he has a tattoo of the St George cross on his stomach?

Blair in Ulster plea to Tories

TONY BLAIR yesterday made a direct appeal to the Tories to maintain their bipartisan support for the Northern Ireland peace deal as ministers sought to head-off a vote against the Bill to allow the early release of terrorist prisoners in the Commons today.

William Hague's office last night issued a statement reaffirming the Shadow Cabinet's support for the bi-partisan approach to Northern Ireland but expressing its "disappointment and concern" that the Government was refusing to accept Tory changes to the legislation.

Ministers fear the Tory opposition to the release of prisoners as part of the Good Friday peace deal could unravel the package, and there is threat that the Tory peers could wreck the legislation in the Lords.

The Tories are threatening to vote against the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill because they claim it fails to re-

quire decommissioning of terrorist weapons to begin before prisoners can be released. Andrew MacKay, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, said last night: "We intend to vote against the third reading of the Bill because it is fatally flawed unless there are substantial amendments."

Mr MacKay denied the Tories were threatening to break the bipartisan approach, but Downing Street and the Prime Minister reinforced the message that Labour in opposition had maintained the bipartisan approach, in spite of criticism, and they expected the Tories to do the same.

In an attempt to avert a vote against the legislation, Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was involved in 11th-hour negotiations with David Trimble, the

Ulster Unionist leader, to amend the Bill before its third reading tonight. It appeared that Mr Trimble may have been satisfied by the deal.

Two amendments have been agreed by Mr Mowlam placing an obligation on the Secretary of State to follow specific criteria over the release of prisoners, and a third will appear on the Commons order paper today requiring the Secretary of State to "implement" the agreement, which links decommissioning of weapons



The Sinn Féin leaders Martin McGuinness, Baibere de Bruin and Gerry Adams at the launch in Belfast of the party's manifesto yesterday

with the release of prisoners. Mr Blair told MPs: "Those parts of the package which relate to decommissioning have to be obeyed."

He told Mr MacKay that the agreement on which the people of Northern Ireland voted in the referendum could not be rewritten in any way, but he added: "We will look very, very carefully at any amendments that are tabled." Rebuking the Opposition, for its lack of support, he reminded Mr MacKay: "We supported the previous

government through thick and thin on this."

As Northern Ireland's marching season approaches, Adam Ingram, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, told the Commons during Questions that there would be "no excuse whatsoever" for violence at the marches.

Part of a North Belfast Orange Order Parade has been re-routed and Mr Ingram praised the Order for its agreement. "I would like to welcome the acceptance by the Loyal Orders

of the commission's determination in the re-routing of the Tour of the North parade scheduled for this Friday," he said. "All of us will recognise the full impact of any outbreak of violence, as we've witnessed in previous years, in the marching season."

"It not only damages the economic health and future well-being of Northern Ireland, it damages the psychological and physical health and well-being of all of the people in Northern Ireland as well."

Part of a North Belfast Orange Order Parade has been re-routed and Mr Ingram praised the Order for its agreement. "I would like to welcome the acceptance by the Loyal Orders

Low-pay victory for Brown

THE TWO-TIER minimum wage, with young people starting on £3 an hour and £3.60 an hour for over-25s, will be announced today in a Commons statement which will be seen as a victory for Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to reduce the cost to industry.

In a face-saving compromise for Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, the Government has agreed to the Low Pay Commission recommended rate of £3.20 an hour for 18- to 21-year-olds, but it will be phased in over 15 months.

Meanwhile, the leader of one of the Labour Party's largest affiliates yesterday clashed with the Government over the decision to "water down" the minimum wage.

But the Chancellor told a packed meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday that if the wage was set too high it would hit jobs among young people by discouraging employers from hiring them for the "new deal" work schemes.

The Prime Minister and William Hague clashed in the Commons over yesterday's figures showing a rapid rise in wage inflation and signs of an increase in unemployment. "The introduction now of the

BY COLIN BROWN AND BARRIE CLEMENT

Low Pay Commission's recommendations is likely to make both problems worse," said the Conservative Party leader.

Downing Street said the outline was agreed by the Cabinet, but the details of the compromise were thrashed out among a small group of key Cabinet ministers with Ian McCartney, Mrs Beckett's deputy.

Ministers are confident the compromise will take the heat out of the row which has been rumbling inside the Government since the Low Pay Commission delivered its report.

Speaking at the annual conference of Unison, the public service union, John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, accused the Government of a "scandalous" attitude to recommendations from the Low Pay Commission.

He said there was no justification for making the "have-nots" even worse off and said the decision to undermine the commission sent out the wrong message from a government committed to social inclusion. "It is scandalous that a unanimous report supported by both sides of industry should be cherry-picked by the Government."

THE HOUSE



Closer ties with Brussels sought

A COMMITTEE of senior MPs called for changes in the Commons which would strengthen ties with Brussels and lead to increased scrutiny of European legislation. The Select Committee on Modernisation urged the Government to set up a National Parliament Office in Brussels by autumn 1999.

'Exclude press from rights Bill'

TORIES SOUGHT to ensure that the Press Complaints Commission was excluded from the provisions of the Human Rights Bill. Sir Norman Fowler, shadow Home Secretary, said the Bill was "vague and uncertain" about the issue.

Ocean centre £69m over budget

A NEW oceanography centre in Southampton opened 22 months late and cost £69.3m - 40 per cent more than intended, a report from the Public Accounts Committee said.

Today in the Commons

- Trade and Industry Questions
- Remaining Stages of Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill
- Motion on the Church of England (National Institutions) Measure
- Adjournment Debate: Closure of civic amenities sites in Northumberland (Peter Atkinson, Con, Hexham)

EU presidency was wasted, says Hague

WILLIAM HAGUE last night told the Prime Minister that the European Summit in Cardiff had brought to an end the British presidency of "disappointments and missed opportunities".

The Conservative leader told Tony Blair that "little or no progress has been made on the central objectives which you set for the British presidency".

Recalling that Mr Blair launched the Presidency at Waterloo Station in London six months ago, Mr Hague said one of the top priorities was to get negotiations for EU enlargement "off to a flying start".

Mr Hague said: "After six months, it looks farther away than ever."

He quoted Finnish leaders as saying enlargement was more problematic now than it was a year ago, and added that the Prime Minister had promised to tackle the "cost and weight" of the Common Agricultural Policy. "But we are no nearer to fundamental reform of the CAP," Mr Hague claimed.

Mr Hague said: "One European leader told me in Cardiff that during this presidency he has had his photograph taken more often than ever before, but was over asked to reach a substantive decision."

"For all your fine words, at the end of the British presidency we are left with the cost and weight of the CAP continuing to grow year by year."

But the Prime Minister yesterday hailed the Cardiff Euro-summit as marking "a solid step forward towards a more effective and better accepted European Union".

In a detailed Commons statement, he claimed Britain's six-month presidency had re-established strong, positive relations with its EU partners.

In a sideswipe at the previous Tory Government, Mr Blair said: "After years of negative and destructive posturing that isolated Britain in Europe but did not advance our interests,

we have re-established strong, positive relations with our EU partners. I believe those relations, not before time, are transformed and for the better."

"That is good for Britain, for Europe and for Britain in Europe. Cardiff was the proof of that."

Sidestepping the question of Britain's entry to the European single currency, Mr Blair's statement covered the four main themes of the summit: economic reform and employment; enlargement and the necessary accompanying policy reforms; the future development of the EU; and foreign policy issues, notably Kosovo.

"We also discussed a range of other questions which touch the lives of ordinary people: the environment, crime and drugs, the millennium bug."

Other subjects discussed included the Middle East peace process, India and Pakistan, Indonesia, East Timor, and Northern Ireland, as well as the problem of drugs.

Rosyth was sold for a tenth of its value

THE CONSERVATIVE government sold the Rosyth Naval Base for little more than one-tenth of its market value, the Government's spending watchdog said yesterday in a critical report on Ministry of Defence property sales.

Although Rosyth 2000, the consortium which bought the Scottish base, bid £9.5m for it in an open competition, it later heat the price down to just over £1m. It won a reduction of £4.5m for the cost of changing the electric supply and other infrastructure works, £2.78m for decontamination work and £1.15m for a change in the area of land leased back to the department.

The ministry had admitted it should have done more to maintain "competitive tension" between the consortium and other bidders in the 22 months which elapsed between the offer and completion of the deal, the report said.

The report, from the National Audit Office (NAO), also revealed that cuts in military personnel since 1980 have

BY FRAN ABRAMS Westminster Correspondent

not been mirrored by cuts in defence spending or by self-offs of defence property. In the past 18 years the number of defence staff has dropped by 42 per cent but net defence spending has dropped by just 22 per cent, and the size of the MoD estate by just 18 per cent.

Although further sell-offs are planned, which would bring the disposals to 31 per cent of the land held in 1980, the report says they could take some years. The ministry must find ways of completing sales more quickly, of achieving better prices on them and of reducing the cost of consultancy and other fees on the sales, it adds.

The NAO examined 45 individual sales of defence property and found that 22 of them were below market value. However, 21 of those were houses sold at a discount to forces staff or civilian tenants and the remaining one was of an electricity substation sold to the local electricity company for £300.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Artists on council

THE SCULPTOR Antony Gormley has been appointed to the Arts Council, it was announced last night by Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary. Other new members will include Deborah Bull, principal dancer with the Royal Ballet, and the artist and sculptor Anish Kapoor.

Brown departure

AT A meeting of the Euro XI in Luxembourg on 4 June, the Chancellor, although chairing the meeting, was required to leave the room.

Helen Liddell confirmed to Tam Dalyell that when issues about member states joining the single currency were to be discussed, Gordon Brown left the room.

Raising revenue

IF THE ceiling on national insurance contributions were to be abolished, says John Denham, about £4.6bn extra revenue would be raised.

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The Royal Ballet at the Barbican, June 15th-20th. Tickets from £9.

Clark supports English hooligans

BY CLARE GARNER

ALAN CLARK is an unlikely champion for the British football supporter abroad. But the born vivier, who lives in a castle and has never been to a football match in his life, yesterday unequivocally defended the English "guys" involved in the violence in Marseilles.

The level of prejudice that exists against English people - both from the French police and other supporters - is so widespread that they "haven't got a chance", he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, adding that it was "a kind of compliment to the English martial spirit" the way other groups of supporters sought them out.

"If you are English you are targeted, and if you are English and tough-looking and wearing an English flag - and why shouldn't you? - and if you are, you will find that not only the ordinary police target you, but there are particular groups of thugs who are set up," said Mr Clark, the Conservative MP for Kensington and Chelsea.

"You can't expect teams of supporters to stand back and be sneered at and spat at and have missiles hurled at them."

"I've never experienced a football riot, but I know that violence is endemic in these games. I've played in the Eton wall game and that was an extremely violent experience and

THE WISDOM OF ALAN CLARK

"You mean to say, they don't want us collecting their names and addresses because they are afraid we will hand them over to the immigration service so they can send them back to Bongo Bongo Land." (Meeting on ethnic monitoring, 1984)

"I find most of them boring, petty, malign, clumsily conspiratorial and parochial to a degree that cannot be surpassed in any part of the United Kingdom." (On local constituency associations, particularly Plymouth Sutton, then his constituency, *Diaries*, 1985)

"Only domestic servants apologise for things they have said." (Interview, on being asked if he would apologise for his casual resignation from the Plymouth seat in 1992)

"You cannot get a decent claret for under £100 these days." (*Diaries*)

"That podgy life-insurance risk." (On Kenneth Clarke, *Diaries*)

the fact is that football matches are now a substitute for the old medieval tournaments. They are in their nature aggressive and confrontational, so it is perfectly natural that some of the fans should be obstreperous."

Mr Clark also attacked Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow Home Secretary, for trying to tighten up the laws restricting hooligans from travelling abroad. "I don't know why he's doing this. It is completely un-Conservative to try to restrict people's movements. It takes us back to the 18th regulations of the war, when you were trying to limit undesirable aliens."

The Labour Party called for the Conservative leader William Hague to discipline Mr Clark immediately for his remarks. A Labour spokesman said: "There can be absolutely no excuse for violence from whatever quarter. Mr Hague should immediately discipline Mr Clark - otherwise he will

be colluding in an apology for the worst sort of violent hooliganism."

A spokesman for Conservative Central Office distanced itself from Mr Clark, saying: "Alan Clark's views are not those of the Conservative Party, the public and the vast majority of decent football supporters, who are united in their disgust at the actions of the football thugs in France. Sir Norman Fowler's proposed amendments to the Crime and Disorder Bill seek to give the magistrates new powers to deal with football violence. We hope the Government will accept our proposals."

Mr Clark accused politicians and the media of concentrating on the violence of the English fans and ignoring the fact that they were frequently provoked by foreign supporters.

"I know how camera crews work and if they have been told by their editors, just as reporters on the English papers have been told by their editors, simply to focus on English misbehaviour, that is what they will do."



A lone fan yesterday in Toulouse, where England play Romania on Monday

Peter Macdiarmid

Toulouse gets prepared for the onslaught

THE HEADLINE of the local paper, *La Dépêche du Midi*, could not have been more striking. "Mobilisation against the football hooligans," it read. "Toulouse on a state of alert."

Beneath the headline was a photograph of muscular, plain-clothed policemen, armed with batons and more, waiting at the train station for the arrival of the English supporters.

But yesterday afternoon Toulouse did not appear to be a city on a state of alert. The cafés and restaurants around the Place du Capitole were heaving and the city's wide tree-lined streets were full of people going about their business. If the people of Toulouse were feeling an onslaught of English hooligans, they were not showing it.

"There is a sense of quiet determination to organise things so that people are not disrupted too much," said the British Consul General for Southwest France, James Rawlinson.

At a sandwich shop in the centre of the city, the man behind the counter shrugged when asked if he expected there to be violence from English fans arriving to watch the game against Romania on Monday. "Who knows," he said. "Yes, people are aware the English are coming to town and I think there is some concern."

Local authorities have been making preparations to avoid a repeat of Marseilles. The mayor of Toulouse, Dominique Baudis, has postponed the annual music festival while the head of the police has called in reinforcements and ordered all bars and restaurants in the city to shut at 11pm from tonight until Tuesday. This is in

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
in Toulouse

stark contrast to police in Marseilles, who originally allowed bars to remain open until 4am.

There have been reports that up to 2,000 English supporters are already in Toulouse, but if they are, they are keeping well hidden. A Union Jack, draped from a hotel window, was noticeable in its singularity, but perhaps gave a flavour of what is to come.

Many supporters may have been forced to stay outside the city, at one of four campsites, because of a lack of hotel accommodation. "We have not seen many English people here so far," said a spokeswoman for the tourist information centre. "We are expecting most to arrive over the weekend as the game approaches." Estimates suggest that up to 10,000 English fans will be in town by kick-off on Monday night.

Police, however, are hopeful that there will be no violence. A British police source, who is liaising with the French authorities, said the general approach had not changed since Marseilles. Spotter teams will be on the streets trying to pick out troublemakers. "Of course there are lessons you learn as you go along," he said.

Many observers point out that Toulouse is a very different city to Marseilles and may not contain some of the ingredients for potential violence. Prosperous and middle-class, Toulouse is more interested in rugby than football and there is not the same size of north African community, members of which were involved in the Marseilles violence.

RAF chief argues for gay ban to be lifted

A SENIOR commander in the RAF has spoken out in favour of dropping the ban on gays serving in the armed forces, it was disclosed yesterday.

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Cousins, the head of the RAF's Personnel and Training Command, said that he believed that admitting gay men and lesbians "could work".

The Ministry of Defence made clear, however, that Sir David was expressing a "personal view" and that the Government's position had not changed.

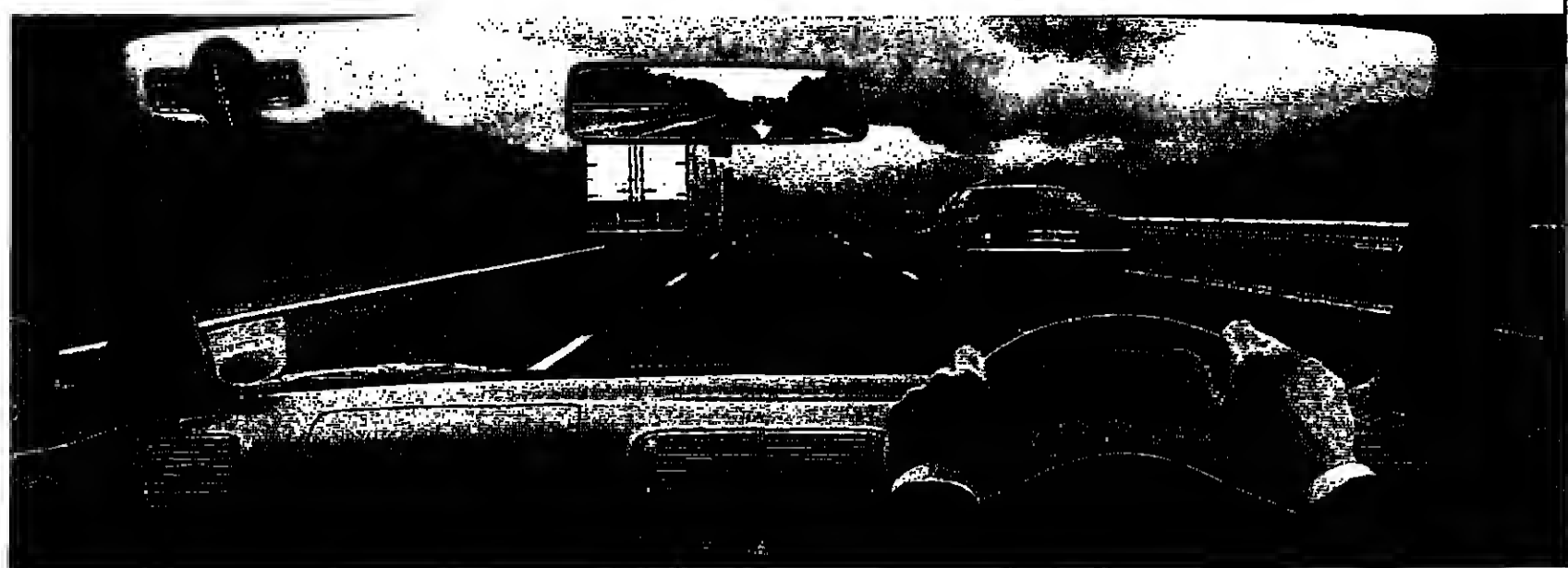
Sir David, who is a member of the Air Force Board, which is responsible for advising ministers, said that he would not object if the Government moved to lift the ban. "Personally, if the Government decided to open the services to homosexuals, and we did not adopt the Americans' 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, I would support it," he said. "If the Government decided

BY GAVIN CORDON

on a fully open policy with strict rules like those which govern other sexual behaviour in the forces, then I think we could make it work. I have talked to my opposite numbers at five other air forces where homosexuality is allowed and in their view, there is not a problem."

His comments, made in a local newspaper following a RAF equal opportunities conference, are likely to antagonise other senior service personnel, many of who remain resolutely opposed to lifting the ban.

It is thought likely that MPs will be given a free vote on removing the current restriction when Parliament debates the next Armed Forces Bill in 2000. A MoD spokesman said: "Our line remains the same. We continue to ban homosexuals from the military. In the course of this Government, that position will be reviewed."



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Museum avoids call for Marbles

THE BRITISH Museum yesterday made a stylish attempt to stave off the prospect of an international diplomatic incident.

In the wake of a new book claiming that the Elgin Marbles were damaged 60 years ago while in the care of the museum, the Greek deputy foreign minister, George Papandreou, cut short a visit to the Cardiff summit to see the Marbles.

It was clearly an opportunity to make yet another call for the Marbles to be returned to Greece. But the British Museum was determined only to discuss matters artistic.

Mr Papandreou was shown around the three rooms of Parthenon friezes not by the museum's director but by an expert curator, Dr Dyfri Williams, who dwelt on neither the damage nor the politics, but waxed lyrical about the technique and symbolism of the sculpture.

"Ah," said Dr Williams as Mr Papandreou stopped to examine whether an original hue had been wiped away by suspect

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

cleaning methods. "Ah, it's nice to see you stop by one of my favourites. Look at the depth of the carving..."

But Mr Papandreou was not to be totally deflected. At the end of the tour, he stood in front of the visibly damaged sculpture of the sun god Helios. He announced: "Revelations concerning the damage to the Parthenon Marbles have created a sense of concern... which reflects on the stewardship of the Marbles."

Least that sounded too dry and scientific, he added that as he was Greek, learning about the damage and seeing it was "something that touches me and I am sensitive to". He called for an independent inquiry and for the Marbles to be returned to Greece.

For his part, Dr Williams said that the level of damage reported in the new book was "a great exaggeration".



The Greek deputy foreign minister, George Papandreou, inspecting one of the disputed sculptures during his tour of the British Museum

Neville Elder

Proposal for children to vet divorces

A CHILD should be allowed to veto a decision by its parents to get divorced or have an abortion, according to a controversial new report from the think-tank Demos.

They should also be given a vote from birth, administered for them by their mother until they are 16, according to the study which argues for radical policies to strengthen the family.

The report was yesterday condemned as "totally unrealistic" and charities warned it was putting too much of a burden on children to expect them to sort out their parents' marriages.

Its author, Professor Stein Ringen, says that family life has changed dramatically over the last 30 years and moves must be made to encourage formal marriage rather than cohabitation. Divorce and abortion have become made "too easy".

The report, "The Family in Question", says more emphasis must be given to the rights of the child as an integral part of the family unit. Children's rights and voices are not seen as important and this should change, the professor says.

"The trend is for divorce and abortion to be seen as individual issues not collective decisions. In my view such an important decision must be taken collectively," he said.

BY GLENDA COOPER
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

"Children have a role in the decision making. They are a citizen in the family unit. Of course, many parents already take their children into consideration, for example staying together until the children grow up... But there might be arguments to

suggest that the child's opinion should have some priority if the child is against divorce."

In effect, the child should have the "casting vote". He says the argument also holds true on abortion: "This is a new brother or a new sister that we are talking about. It is very important for them."

Professor Ringen admits

that such decisions would be "difficult" to implement practically and would require changes in family law.

In order to encourage politicians to take children's rights seriously, the latter should be given a vote which would be administered for them by their mother. "There are two reasons for this," he said.

"First, at the moment when politicians think about getting votes they do not have to think about children specifically. Second, the changing population means that voters are ageing - the average age of the voter is now approaching 50 and so they have short-term interests as opposed to children who have longer-term interests. Politicians are going to be more interested in the majority voters."

He said families must be supported against the growing individualism of life. "If society is neutral on cohabitation versus marriage, the likelihood is that cohabitation will advance over marriage and new unions of weak commitment will be encouraged."

To aid this, as well as making divorce more difficult, child benefit should be raised to 20 per cent of average income for the first five years of a child's life and tapered off until they reach 15. It should be taxable on top of other family income.

"The late 20th century faces a revolution in families: smart government policy must recognise these changes and look at ways to strengthen families rather than individuals," said Professor Ringen.

A spokesman for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said yesterday: "We believe that children should be consulted over important decisions which affect their lives, such as divorce, but to let children have the right of veto is putting an unfair burden on their shoulders."

Agony aunt and broadcaster Deirdre Saunders said that letting children veto divorce would not work in real life: "I can see why Demos would see why it was a good idea but it is totally unrealistic. Most children would love their parents to stay together but whether that is possible is another matter. And research shows that it is no good parents staying together miserably."

Maevie Sherlock, director of the National Council of One Parent Families, said: "The interests of children should always be at the forefront whenever divorce is being considered. However, children cannot know - and may need sheltering from - the detail of their parents' relationship. They should not be asked to take responsibility for the future of a marriage."

'RAGTAG BAND' WITH EYE ON POWER

FOR A think-tank formed only five years ago, Demos's influence and media presence has been astonishing. Hardly a week goes by without a report. If it was not 10-year marriage contracts or defining the "seven million generation", then it was the rest of us wondering what sort of a name Perri 6 was for a researcher.

Demos (from the Greek word for people) was founded in 1993 as an "independent think-tank" which it says picks "good and provocative ideas from across the scale of left and right". Its primary movers were from the left, including Martin Jacques, former editor of *Marxism Today* magazine and one-time deputy editor of *The Independent*, and Geoff Mulgan,



Roddick: advisory role

former policy adviser to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

It now has a research team of 11 and brings out eight to ten books a year plus a series of shorter reports on topics rang-

ing from the post-modern state to animal rights. Its advisory council includes Anita Roddick, Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays Bank and Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco. Demos finally knew it had arrived when a piece in the *Daily Mail* blasted it as a group of "insidious freemasons of the left" and "a ragtag band of one-time communists, Hampstead socialists and quasi-experts".

Now this band regularly treads the corridors of power. Mr Mulgan, Demos's founder, has been brought into Downing Street to oversee the Social Exclusion Unit, and two senior researchers are on secondment to the Department for Education and Employment and the Department of Social Security.

...AND ITS BIG IDEAS FOR A NEW AGE

■ SOAP OPERAS should be forced to help cut the state's annual £1bn bill for family break-ups by educating parents in the art of successful marriage, says a Demos paper by Ed Straw, brother of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and chairman of the trustees at Relate. "Relative Values" argues that broadcasters should be legally required to devote a set number of programme hours each week to relationship and parenting education.

■ Couples should be able to marry for a fixed term and to negotiate their own wedding vows, says the report "The Proposal", on ways to save the institution of marriage. And anyone should be able to conduct the ceremony, including a best friend.



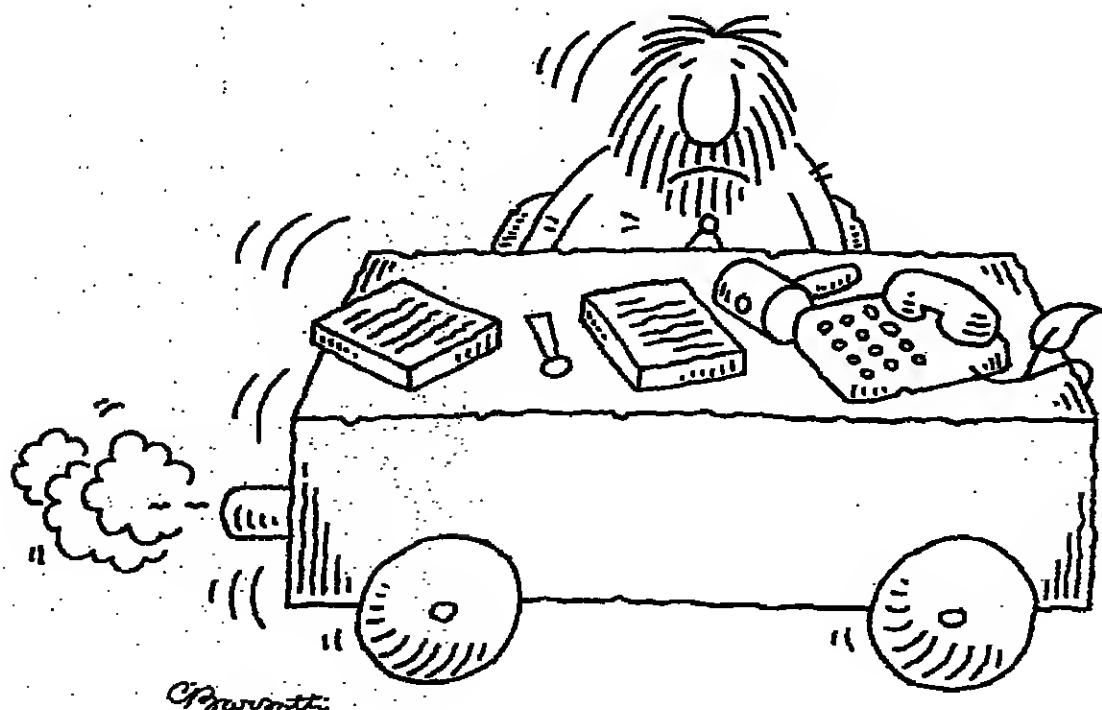
Straw: teaching parents

■ Demos came up with the idea of rebranding Britain and the endless "Cool Britannia" notions. "BritainTM: Renewing our Identity", called for a new "story" for Britain as dispensed by a "vision group" chaired by the Prime Minister and a "promoting Britain unit" in the Cabinet Office.

■ Woman can be divided up into five groups: Mannish Mel, New Age Angela, Networking Naomi, Back-to-Basics Barbara and Frustrated Fran. "Tomorrow's Women" said. It says women are no longer a homogeneous group and the divisions will not be felt so keenly between the sexes as between types of women.

■ Journalists should be free to stalk people and trespass on their property if there is a reasonable suspicion that they have committed a criminal or civil offence, according to "The Future of Privacy". Those who put themselves forward for public life should have virtually no privacy protection.

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Australia set for early poll

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Sydney

JOHN HOWARD, Australia's prime minister, was under intense pressure yesterday to call an early federal election in the wake of the strong vote in Queensland last weekend for One Nation, the racially divisive party led by Pauline Hanson.

The conservative federal Liberal-National coalition government that Mr Howard leads has been shaken by One Nation's capture of almost one-quarter of the Queensland state election vote, especially as it was almost entirely confined to the coalition's traditional heartland in rural areas.

One Nation won 10 seats, but the opposition Labor Party seemed likely after further counting yesterday to be able to form a government without the involvement of the Hanson party, whose policies it strongly opposes.

Farmers and townspeople in Queensland, hit hard by economic decline, voted for One Nation in protest at the state's ruling coalition which they felt had lost touch with their needs.

In Brisbane, the state capital, the Liberal vote collapsed in protest at that party's decision to give second votes under the preferential system to One Nation, a party which city voters disapproved of over its bigoted policies against Asian immigration and Aboriginal rights.

Before the Queensland election, Mr Howard had hoped to call a "double dissolution" of both houses of federal parliament later this year. Its trigger would be his government's legislation that restricts the rights of Aborigines to claim native title over traditional lands.



Australian Prime Minister John Howard has told critics he will stick to his guns and go for an early election

Reuters

Some have called on Mr Howard to ditch the election until the last possible time, early in 1999.

came to grief. Since the Queensland debacle, federal coalition MPs have been alarmed that One Nation could wreak similar havoc in their ranks in an early federal election as it did in Queensland.

But Mr Howard has indicated that he plans to stick to his guns, and there was speculation yesterday that he could call an election even as early as August.

As the economic crisis in Asia deepens, the prime minister fears that Australia could be caught up even further in its backwash and that the sooner he goes to the polls the better. There was a chilling warning in Melbourne on Tuesday from Jean-Michel Severino, the World Bank's vice-president for Asia-Pacific, who said that Asia could be entering a depression.

"We are probably at the end of a first cycle of crisis and we are entering into a deep recession, or you could probably use the term depression," he said. "This depression may be very long lasting if one does not manage it very, very carefully."

Australia sold 60 per cent of its exports to Asia last year. Mr Howard said yesterday that he found Mr Severino's language "rather extreme and not in the forecasts I have".

US lines up with France to limit court

THE UNITED STATES and France yesterday demanded tough curbs on the proposed International Criminal Court, but offered some compromises that would allow it to go ahead.

Addressing a crucial conference in Rome to finalise a treaty for the court, Washington's ambassador to the United Nations warned against turning the court into a "human rights ombudsman" that would allow all kinds of frivolous or politically motivated complaints.

Drawing a clear distinction with what happened at the Nuremberg tribunal on Nazi war crimes, Bill Richardson added that the court should not be empowered to prosecute individuals accused of waging national aggression.

"We must distinguish between what looks good on paper and what works in the real world," he told the 156-nation conference.

To the dismay of human rights groups, Washington's stance aligns the US with France, China and other countries opposed to a genuinely independent ICC operating free of Security Council control.

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

court should refer cases to the Security Council for approval. However, he did not specifically demand the right of veto - something critics say would turn the court into the creature of the five permanent members.

If that was a hint of compromise, so too was France's willingness yesterday to allow the ICC to proceed on its own initiatives in cases of genocide and crimes against humanity.

But Hubert Vedrine, the French Foreign Minister, said the court should only be able to prosecute suspects from countries which had ratified the treaty. Critics say this would make it impossible, for instance, to go after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Although a large bloc of so-called "like-minded" countries, including Britain, Canada and most of Europe favour a strong and independent court, they fear it would not be workable without Washington's agreement.

The stage is thus set for some very hard haggling before July 17, the target date for completion of the treaty.

SA Nationalist attacks predecessors

AS SOUTH Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) seeks to establish the full extent of the chemical and biological warfare programme set up by the apartheid government, the head of the former ruling party has called on his predecessors to take responsibility for their actions.

Marthinus van Schalkwyk, who became leader of the National Party last year, said everyone was filled with revulsion at last week's revelations at the TRC, which included at-

tempts to use hallucinogenic drugs for riot control and a search for a bacterium which would selectively harm black people. Ministers in the previous government were "hiding behind each other", he said.

Although Mr van Schalkwyk sought to broaden his attack to include the present government, which he accused of "hiding behind apartheid" and showing no more accountability than the "previous dispensation", it is the first time evidence at the commission has provoked such a response from the National Party, and shows its potential to damage the party's reputation less than a year before South Africa's next election.

In 1994 the Nationalists lost power for the first time since 1948 except in the Western Cape, where they control the provincial government.

Last week's lurid testimony from scientists, which the TRC chairman, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, described as the most shocking he had heard, has come closer to implicating senior figures in the apartheid regime than any other evidence.

Former president PW Botha, who will return to court in August on a charge of refusing to testify, has claimed ignorance of the work of apartheid's "black sheep".

His successor, FW de Klerk, this week denied knowledge of the experiments in the chemical and biological warfare programme, although the office of deputy president Thabo Mbeki said Mr de Klerk had handed over the key to a safe containing results of the research.



Marthinus van Schalkwyk

ALCOHOL SHOULD be classed alongside heroin and cocaine as one of the most dangerous kinds of drug, according to a report to the French government. Cannabis is a relatively harmless substance - much less harmful than tobacco, according to the same report.

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

The study, one of the most exhaustive of its kind, suggests that the classic three-tier definition of drugs - hard, soft and legal - should be overturned.

A team, led by Professor Bernard-Pierre Roques, one of France's leading authorities on narcotics, classified all drugs, legal and illegal, according to five possible ill-effects: physical dependency, psychological dependency, damage to the brain, damage to the body and damage to society. Alcohol scores as very high risk in the first two categories and high risk in the other three. Cannabis is graded as a low risk, very low risk or no risk in all categories. The most dangerous single drug is heroin, partly because of the dangers associated with the way it is taken. Tobacco should be in the next level of risk, alongside ecstasy and LSD.

The report, commissioned by the French Health Minister, Bernard Kouchner, will inflame the debate within the government on the legalisation, or decriminalisation, of cannabis.

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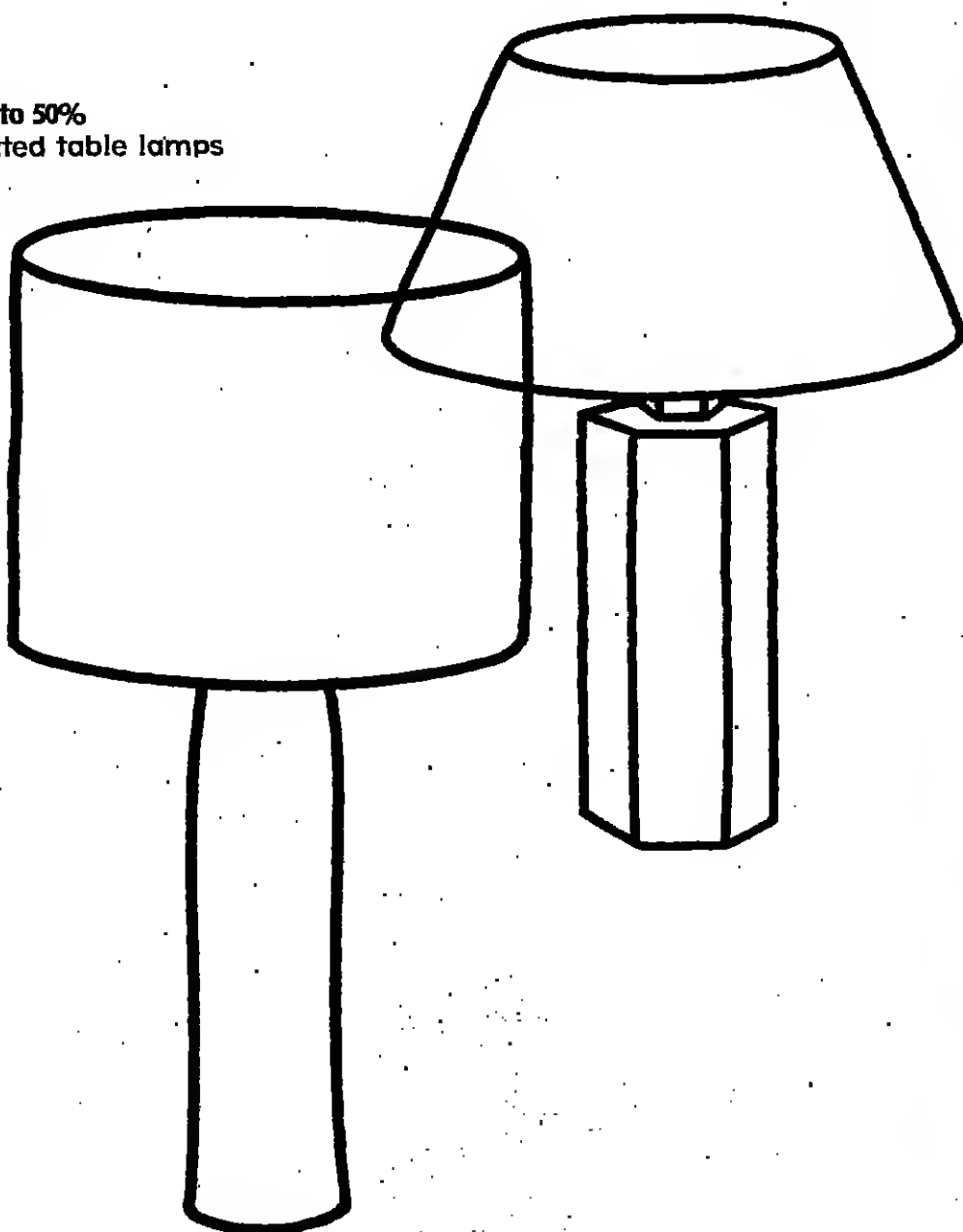
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Mass killer given status of a saint

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Hebron

"THE SETTLERS hit my father on the back of the neck with a wooden stick," said Musa abu Turki, a Palestinian in his twenties, as he waited yesterday with other mourners on the outskirts of Hebron. "It was the end of his life. He was dead when we brought him to hospital."

"There were three of them in a white minibus," continues Musa. "My father was a farmer. He was building a stone wall in his fields. At about 6.30 in the evening he was walking back to his house along the main road. As the minibus drove past one of the settlers leaned out and hit him with the stick. It was about a metre long. We found it later and gave it to the police."

The death of Abdul Majid Mohammed al-Turki, 45, the father of 12 children, is the latest in a string of attacks by Jewish settlers on Palestinians in and around Hebron. Two settlers, both minors and from the nearby settlement of Hagai, were arrested yesterday by the Israeli police. Salah abu Turki, a cousin of the murdered man, said that the day before the killing a settler had thrown a bottle at a Palestinian man at the same spot.

Down at the settler headquarters, called Avraham Avinu, in the heart of Hebron, we asked David Wilder, the settler spokesman, what he thought of the murder. "It was kids in a car," he said. "They did something very stupid. The chief of police in Hebron says it was unintentional and they were just kids playing a game." Mr Wilder's tone was detached, as if "the kids", one of them strong enough to break a man's

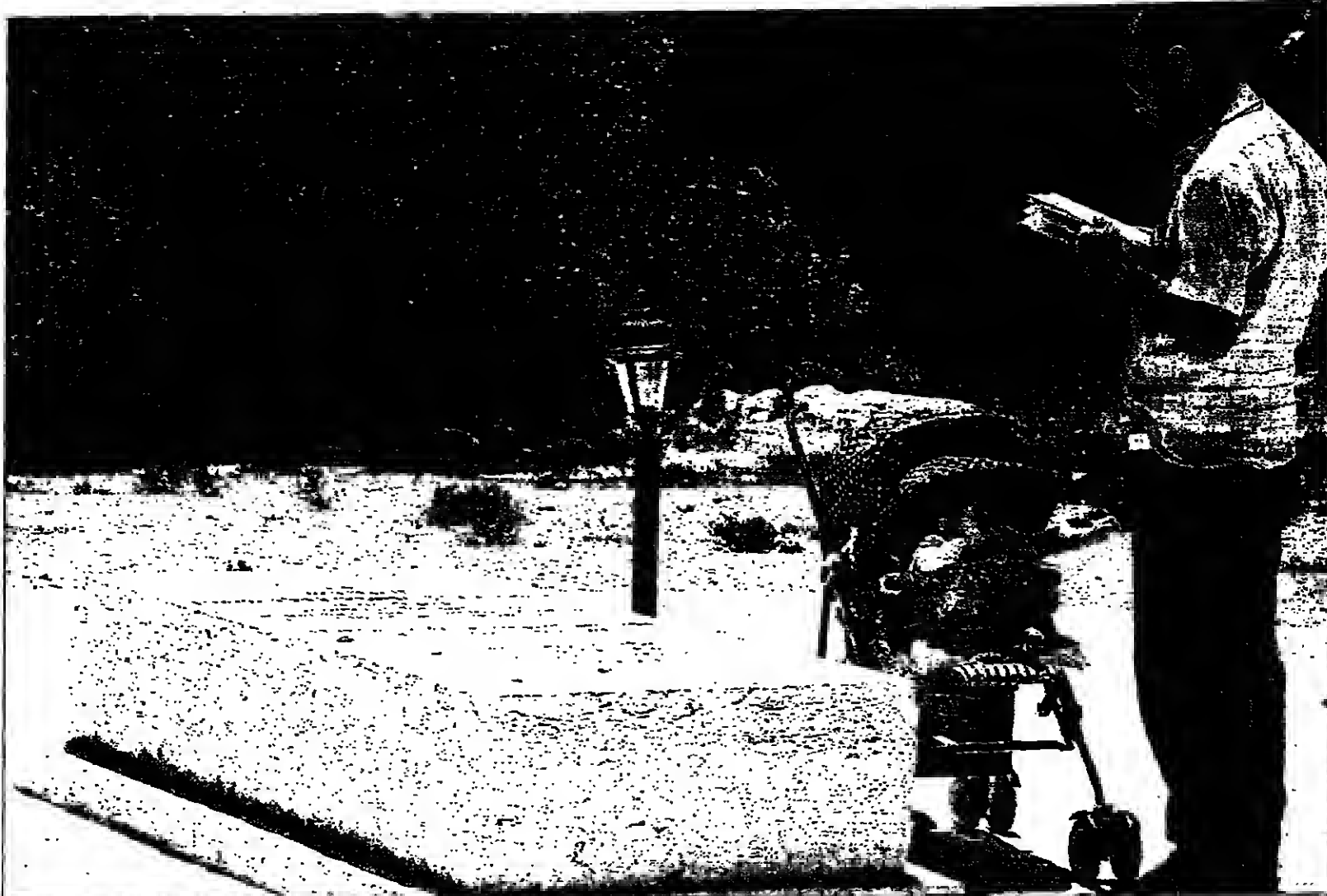
neck with a single blow, had accidentally put a ball through somebody's window.

The largest Jewish settlement in the area is at Kiryat Arba. Seven thousand militant settlers live there in a fortress-like suburb on the eastern side of Hebron, a Palestinian town with a population of 100,000. Just past the electrically-operated sliding steel gates at its entrance a triumphal causeway leads off to the right. It ends in an octagonal-shaped plaza, surfaced in cut stone at the centre of which, illuminated at night by ornamental lights, is the massive gravestone of Baruch Goldstein, the Brooklyn-born doctor from Kiryat Arba, who on 25 February 1994, entered the al-Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron and fired his machine-gun into the backs of the worshippers. By the time he was beaten to death by the survivors as he stopped to reload he had killed 29 people.

Goldstein's victims are not mentioned on his gravestone. It calls him a saint. The incised letters read: "Having given his life on behalf of the Jewish people, its Torah and its ancestral homeland, he was an innocent, pure hearted individual."

Around the grave of this mass murderer are aids to prayer, such as a metal cabinet holding religious books, another with memorial candles and charity boxes. Water taps are provided for visitors who want to wash their hands ritually after a visit. Clumps of red carnations bloom in a concrete trough close by the grave.

Kiryat Arba is at the cutting edge of the militant Jewish settler movement, which believes God gave the West Bank - the land of Judea and



A Jewish settler in Hebron prays over the grave of Baruch Goldstein, who killed 29 Palestinians at prayer

David Silverman/Reuters

Samaria - to the Jews. It is out surprising that they have built Goldstein a large memorial. An attempt by a left-wing member of the Knesset, Ran Cohen, to pass a law to remove all memorials to terrorists apart from a grave and tombstone,

has revealed the sympathy felt for Goldstein by one of Israel's chief rabbis, who opposed the attempt.

The settlers have more than a sentimental reverence for Goldstein. They recognise that his massacre of worshippers in

the Ibrahimi mosque was a fatal wound in the Oslo agreement. Part of Palestinian opinion became convinced then that there was nothing to be got from Israel. Hamas, the Islamic militant group, felt it had enough support to start its suicide bomb campaign. Israelis,

in turn, began to wonder what was the point of a peace agreement if they were afraid to send their children to school in a bus.

The settler offensive in 1994-95 effectively destroyed the

chances of peace between Israelis and Palestinians. It began with Baruch Goldstein's mass murder and ended with Yigal Amir, who organised student tours of the Hebron settlement, shooting Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, in the back.

This might have been a disaster for the settler movement, because of the backlash against the religious right. "The only thing that could save us is if the Palestinians let off some bombs," said one elderly Hebron settler at the time. "And even they aren't that stupid." Soon afterwards, Palestinian suicide bombers killed 60 people in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ashkelon, enabling Benjamin Netanyahu to squeak home in the election to become prime minister of Israel.

Even now, the settlers see Rabin as their most potent enemy. Responding to the threat to the Goldstein grave, Baruch Marzel, a settler militant in Hebron, told an Israeli reporter that if anything happened to it "some left-wing graves might be harmed, perhaps, heaven forbid, the grave of Rabin."

By the end of this week the Israeli army is due to apply what is officially called the Law Prohibiting the Erection of Memorials to Terrorists. But the boys who casually broke the neck of Abdul Majid abu Turki, as he walked home after a day in the fields, shows that in Hebron the spirit of Baruch Goldstein still goes marching on. ■ Israel yesterday rejected a call by European Union leaders not to rule out the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"Israel rejects the reference to the possibility of a Palestinian state as unhelpful intervention in negotiations on a final settlement," Israel's Foreign Ministry said in response to a communique issued on Tuesday at the EU summit in Cardiff, expressing "grave concern" at the stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Taliban shuts schools

THE UNITED Nations called for an emergency meeting yesterday with Afghanistan's Taliban religious army following its decision to shut more than 100 private schools, many for girls.

The closures "will have a devastating impact on the welfare of many of the city's neediest people, particularly women and children", the UN said in a statement released in Pakistan.

The Taliban also announced that it was closing many small, home-based vocational training programmes. Most of these have been run by international aid groups, which teach girls and young women to weave carpets and sew.

Under the new rules, however, schools will not be allowed to instruct girls older than eight and will be limited to teaching the Koran.

The schools on the closure

BY KATHY GANNON
in Islamabad

list have violated those rules, the government said. "These schools weren't just for children. They also included 14 and 15-year-old girls," said the religious affairs minister, Haji Khulmuddin.

The home-based schools have mainly been run by women teachers who were forced out of work after the Taliban took control of Kabul in 1996 and imposed its harsh brand of Islamic law, banning women from the workplace and girls from the schools.

Without officially recognising the home-based programmes, the Taliban has allowed them to operate until now.

A survey by aid workers in January showed that at least 107 home schools were operating in Kabul, teaching 6,500 students, half of whom were girls. They were teaching religion, language and maths.

The UN warned the Taliban that the decision to close the girls schools violated an agreement signed last month promising to discuss education and healthcare for women and girls.

The same agreement also promised to establish a joint committee "to discuss a range of humanitarian and development issues including problem areas such as access to education and health".

The Taliban's opponents, led by Afghanistan's former president Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military chief Ahmed Shah Massoud, said that the Taliban's brand of Islamic interpretation was rooted more in tribal tradition than the Koran.

Big guns back Clinton's China visit

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

coming visit to China as furthering US interests in a way that isolating China would not.

Next week Mr Clinton will become the first American president to make an official visit to China since the Chinese army crushed the pro-democracy protest in Tiananmen Square in 1989. His agreement to take part in an official welcoming ceremony in the vicinity of the square has been strongly criticised by human rights groups in the US.

In Congress, opposition has been mounting to the visit. The Republican majority leader in the Senate, Trent Lott, has accused Mr Clinton of "finessing" his visit according to a script dictated by Peking. Republican objections have deviated from

human rights considerations however. Instead, they have focused on accusations, supported in part by a Pentagon report, that China has used US satellites for military purposes and continues to supply missile technology to Iran.

The political sensitivity of these allegations is such that the White House was moved to respond almost at once. In a highly unusual move, it released confidential internal documents of its own, detailing discussions inside the Administration about waiving post-Tiananmen sanctions to permit the satellite sales. Senior White House officials have gone into print to defend the sales.

In another attempt to mollify opposition to Mr Clinton's visit, the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, told a Congressional committee this week

that the President would use the opportunity in Peking to raise US concerns about nuclear proliferation, and about China's co-operation with Iran in missile technology.

Unconfirmed reports say US officials are discussing an agreement with China according to which both countries will agree not to target nuclear missiles at each other. A report, purportedly leaked from the Central Intelligence Agency, caused a stir in the US two weeks ago by warning that China still had missiles targeted on nine US cities. The Chinese ambassador in Washington has publicly questioned both the authenticity and accuracy of the report, denying that China represented any threat.

The CIA has refused to comment on the report, fuelling suspicions in some quarters that

the "report" could be little more than a pretext for a high-profile, but strategically insignificant announcement during Mr Clinton's visit. The US already has such an agreement with Russia. China is said to be holding out for a matching agreement on "no first use" of nuclear weapons, an undertaking Washington has refused to make.

■ The Dalai Lama said yesterday he expects President Clinton to raise the question of Tibetan autonomy during his China visit. The Chinese embassy in Washington accused the Dalai Lama this week of seeking the "restoration of feudal serfdom of old Tibet". In a letter published in the Washington Post on Monday the embassy warned that the Tibetan people would never let this happen.

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IN BRIEF

Chubais called to help with IMF
BORIS YELTSIN's unpopular economics adviser, chief privatiser, and election mastermind, Anatoly Chubais, has returned to the Kremlin to help Russia out of its fiscal crisis. Less than four months after being fired in a government clean-out, Mr Chubais was yesterday appointed as the president's representative in crucial negotiations with the International Monetary Fund. Mr Chubais was called in to the rescue at the behest of a group of eight Moscow business moguls. An IMF delegation is due in Moscow next week to discuss an additional aid package rumoured at \$10bn.

Plea to end Kosovo 'genocide'
ALBANIA'S PRESIDENT Rexhep Meidani said the bloodshed and ethnic cleansing of Albanians in Serbia's Kosovo province should be stopped by "any means". President Meidani flew to the northern region of Tropic to meet some of the thousands of ethnic Albanians who have fled Kosovo for Albania in the past two weeks. "With any means we have to stop the bloodshed and to stop the genocide and ethnic cleansing to create a new situation without the army or secret police (in Kosovo)," Mr Meidani said. Pulling the security forces out of Kosovo is the key demand of the Contact Group of big powers. Hundreds of people have been killed - and thousands uprooted - since Serbia's security forces launched a campaign earlier this year to crush pro-independence guerrillas in Kosovo.

Full honours for Tsar
THE RUSSIAN government insisted yesterday that the country's last Tsar, Nicholas II, will be buried with pomp and circumstance despite funding woes and the reluctance of the Russian Orthodox church. "The fact that the funeral is taking place is far more important than the form it takes," said an aide to Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov. Plans for the state funeral in St Petersburg on 17 July have drawn criticism from various quarters in recent weeks. The Russian Orthodox church hierarchy has decided to boycott the event.

DOUG HENDERSON

'Britain's standing in Europe has been transformed from a year ago. That is good for Britain and good for Europe'

THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

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Shy governor is contender for Kremlin

DMITRY AYATSKOV is, in fact, a shy man. But you wouldn't know it from his ostentatious New Age office, with its plant-lined conservatory, full-length azure velvet curtains, and entry sign bearing the single, potent word: "Governor" (in gold letters, naturally).

You wouldn't know it from some of his pastimes - riding his pet camel at the official residence and visiting his menagerie, which includes two bears, 10 horses, several reindeer, and a pair of donkeys called Mikhail and Raisa, after two ill-starred predecessors from Russia's ruling elite.

Nor would you guess from the bustling manner in which the governor, a bronzed, portly 47-year-old, goes about his business. When he wants to cross his fiefdom in a hurry, he climbs aboard his personal helicopter, dropping in uninvited on hamlets and farms en route.

But Mr Ayatskov is shy. His name has been mentioned among the Moscow cognoscenti as a potential contender for the Kremlin, when (and if) Boris Yeltsin leaves office in 2000. Last month, he inched further into the limelight when the President took him to the G8 summit in Birmingham and introduced him to Bill Clinton as "the next Russian president". The Kremlin later said he was joking.

Yet put such matters to the governor himself, and he becomes a picture of confusion. "I can't say whether I want to be president or not," he said, smiling opaquely as he sat in front of a signed portrait of Mr Yeltsin and a statuette of Big Ben. "I have first to prove to Russians that reforms here can be developed. After that I will have the moral right to seek a higher position."

Such reservations have not deterred him from preparing plans to launch a new, unnamed pro-reform political party, a move that would place him even more firmly on the national political landscape.

"At the moment, Russia has

BY PHIL REEVES
in Saratov

no strong parties, just fragments - including the Communists. It is not like America, where you have the Republicans and Democrats," he said. "Here we're building a new ideology that can unite everyone."

"Here" is Saratov, a region the size of Belgium on the banks of the River Volga, 500 miles south-east of Moscow. Just over two years ago, Boris



Ayatskov: 'next president'

Yeltsin appointed Mr Ayatskov as its governor, sacking the previous incumbent for incompetence. Saratov, a former Soviet military production centre closed to outsiders until 1991, was considered by the Kremlin as a largely hostile "red belt" territory, a view that was confirmed when it voted Communist in the 1996 presidential elections.

Within three months, however, Mr Ayatskov had changed the political map. He annihilated a Communist opponent in gubernatorial elections in September 1996, winning 80 per cent of the vote. Thus a region that arose around a 16th-century fortress to protect Russia from the remnants of the Golden Horde is once again on Moscow's side.

Mr Ayatskov reinforced his place in the President's good

books in November when Saratov passed a law liberalising the sale of land. Mr Yeltsin has been battling for federal land reform laws, but has met determined resistance in the Communist-dominated lower house of parliament. So far, Saratov has gained little, but the move was of great symbolic importance and was warmly applauded within the Kremlin.

But Mr Ayatskov's rise also owes much to a ruthless streak. "He doesn't brook much opposition," said one Western businessman. "He is not above closing down their media."

In March, he made news by supporting plans to open Russia's first legal brothel since 1917. The following month, he was in the papers announcing that he wanted his civil servants to ride bicycles. By April, he had raised his profile to such an extent that he was being mentioned as a possible prime minister - should parliament go ahead with its threat to reject Sergei Kiriyenko (in the end, it didn't). Not bad for a local boy from a region with a population of only 2.7 million.

Economics have helped. In the past 18 months, Saratov has risen from 69th to 10th in the table of "investor-attractive" regions in Russia. Plans are afoot for a new international airport and business centre; Bosch, Swiss Transrail, and Hyundai have arrived.

Russian politics is unpredictable and tough. To succeed you need money, guts and friends (and shares) in the Moscow media. There will be plenty of competition for Mr Yeltsin's job from other regional heavyweights. But there has long been speculation that a little-known candidate may soon emerge from the leaders of Russia's 89 regions and republics. While he plays down a presidential bid in 2000, Mr Ayatskov also doesn't rule one out. If the circumstances require, he would - as a "patriot" - be ready to "defend" his country from a return to its Communist past. This is a man to watch.



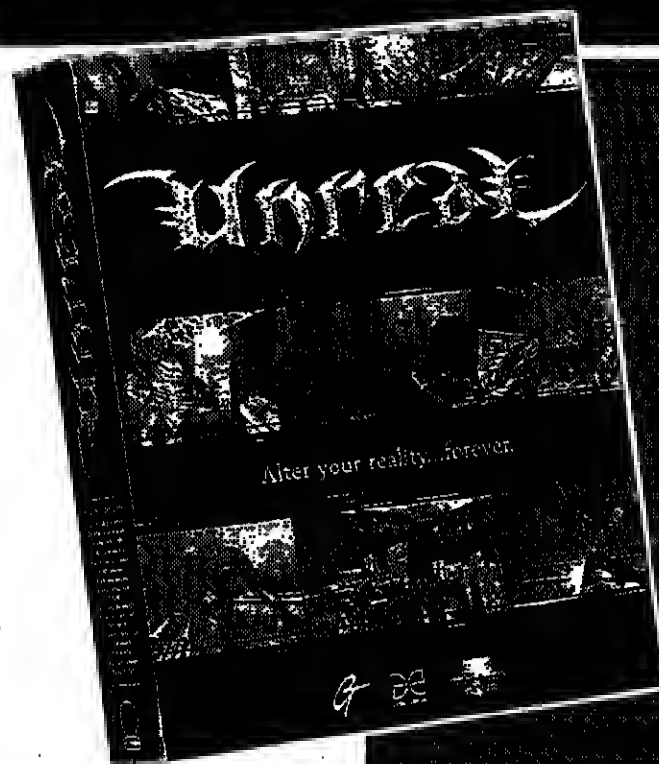
A miner reads the pro-Communist newspaper 'Pravda' on a picket line outside the Russian government building in Moscow yesterday. The pickets were protesting about the state's failure to pay their wages. Some workers have not been paid for 12 months. Mikhail Metzel/AP

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French wine hit by second scandal

THE FRENCH wine industry, still recovering from the ignominious case of the Bordeaux milkshake, has been struck by another alleged scandal: the saga of the sweet-and-sour Burgundy.

It is suggested - even admitted - that some of the most prestigious and expensive red burgundies sold at the Hospices de Beaune auction last November were doctored with sugar and tartaric acid. While it is permitted to treat wine with one substance or the other, it is illegal under EU regulations to use both at once.

The allegations, made by the newspaper *Liberation*, are not so clear-cut as the wrongdoings under criminal investigation at the Chateau Giscours in the Margaux area of the Bordeaux vineyards. There, two senior employees face possible charges of fraud after mixing milk, water, acid and cheaper, local red wine into the chateau's 1995 second vintage.

But to wine purists the goings-on in Burgundy may be more disturbing, because they appear to be more widespread and are officially tolerated.

The Hospices de Beaune auctions, which take place every third Sunday in November, are one of the most celebrated events in the global wine calendar. Buyers from all over the world bid for barrels of wine from small plots of the best Burgundy vineyards which have been bequeathed to the

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

local hospitals over the centuries. The words Hospices de Beaune on a label carry enormous prestige - or snob value.

Liberation reported that some of the grapes for the past year's vintage were picked too early and lacked sugar. André



Burgundy grapes: picked too early. Patrick Eagar

Porcheret, chief wine-maker for the Hospices de Beaune, admitted to the newspaper that he had added sugar to the raw grape juice. There is nothing wrong with that in itself, but he also admitted to having added extra tartaric acid (which occurs naturally in wine) to the same vintage.

Such a combination is illegal under EU regulations, since it

radically alters the character and quality of the wine. It would be possible, using water, sugar and tartaric acid, to manufacture wine without grapes.

Mr Porcheret and the head of the Hospices de Beaune, Antoine Jacquet, have confirmed the facts but denied any wrongdoing. They claim that, since the sugar and acid were added at different stages, they did not infringe the rules.

Not everyone agrees with this interpretation, but the institute which polices Appellation Contrôlée wines in France says that it does not intend to take any action.

The events in Burgundy and Bordeaux certainly deal a serious blow to the French claim to superiority over New World wine producers.

The claim is rooted in the French concept that the best wine "occurs", it cannot be manufactured. In other words, the best wines are produced, skilfully but also mysteriously, from a particular location and particular soil - "terroir". They cannot be processed and blended to achieve a desired level of quality and taste, like some high-priced American or Australian wines.

Some foreign - and French - wine writers have been protesting for several years about the almost mystical French approach. Now it is being betrayed by the lax controls of the country's wine authorities.

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The refugees running on empty

FRONTLINE
YANJI, ON CHINA'S BORDER
WITH NORTH KOREA

IN JUNE, the Tumen river between North Korea and China dwindles to a mere stream. North Korean children paddle almost to the Chinese side with not a guard or a guard post in sight. South Korean tourists call out to North Korean fishermen with friendly enquiries about the day's catch.

The relaxed mood is a shock to journalists peering across the border for evidence of mass mortality. Certainly, there are signs all is not well. Hillsides have been ploughed at inclines of more than 45 degrees. Flatdwellers line the river banks to collect their water supply. The bare mountain slopes near large settlements are in stark contrast with the well-wooded slopes in China.

Most of the skinny children on the North Korean side appear healthy, although here and there you see some sitting motionless, apart from the rest, clutching painfully thin legs.

But you can find famine victims without looking across the river. During a two day tour of the Tumen region on the Chinese side of the border, we met seven food refugees.

Our tour bus picked up two of them along a mountain road. They were enticed aboard with promises of food and friendship. "This feels like a dream", said one. She started to cry silently, then checked

herself, with a self control born of long practise.

The other five were hiding in the hills, huddling under plastic sheets when it rained. One of them, a woman with a six-year-old child, allowed us to photograph her skeletal body because she thought the pictures might persuade a doctor to treat her.

She had been unable to get hospital treatment over the border in North Korea. "How can I get a hospital to treat me when I can't even buy food? Please help me," she said.

Although there are many ethnic Koreans living in China, none could be persuaded to take her in. Our interview was broken up by our Chinese guides who insisted that we must leave before we attracted attention. The next day our guides told us that the woman would probably have been arrested and would be repatriated.

A network of Korean Chinese shelters refugees, risking hefty fines. Moving from one safe house to another we met five more North Koreans. All looked undernourished, despite weeks, even months, of Chinese food. In a barely aud-

ible whisper, snuffing into a handkerchief, one girl told us she had travelled from the far south of her country to get morphine for her sick mother.

She thought her mother had a kidney disease. With 10,000 North Korean won (about £40) she could start a business making tofu and support the two of them, she said. One of her Korean Chinese hosts was doubtful whether she really intended to go back.

"Most of them don't want to, except the ones from just across the border," he said. "If refugees have relatives here, or they can find husbands, they might be able to stay. Even then it's dangerous." All the refugees said they had lost close relatives to the famine. One man said he must have seen 40 corpses since January.

Non-political refugees repatriated from China to North Korea are normally sent to confinement camps for three months, he told us. "It used to be for years but nowadays there are too many refugees. If they are fit, they can survive in the camps by eating grass. There's virtually no food."

In Peking, the UN High Com-

mission for Refugees explained that North Koreans who apply for political asylum would need to show that they had entered China because of a well grounded fear of persecution, on grounds of race, religion or political belief. "It can't just be because they're suffering from famine, as that applies to everyone," said a spokesman.

The number of refugees has fallen in the past two months, according to Korean Chinese, and the food situation seems to have improved for most people. Aid workers inside North Korea have seen fewer cases of malnutrition recently.

The South Korean charity, the Buddhist Sharing Movement, claims to have interviewed 1,500 North Korean refugees.

This body estimated the death toll from malnutrition and disease at more than three million since 1995, out of a population of 23 million. Another charity, World Vision, estimated from a similar survey that between half a million and two million died from January to August 1997.

Our sample of 12 told of mortality rates for their families that were similar to those recorded by the Buddhist Sharing Movement. Their estimates of death rates in the various regions of North Korea were largely guesswork, based on the number of empty houses.

In each case they gave the cause and time of death of each relative. It was difficult not to believe them. Nearly all admitted they had left behind parents, partners or dependents still alive in North Korea, an especially damaging admission for family-oriented Koreans.

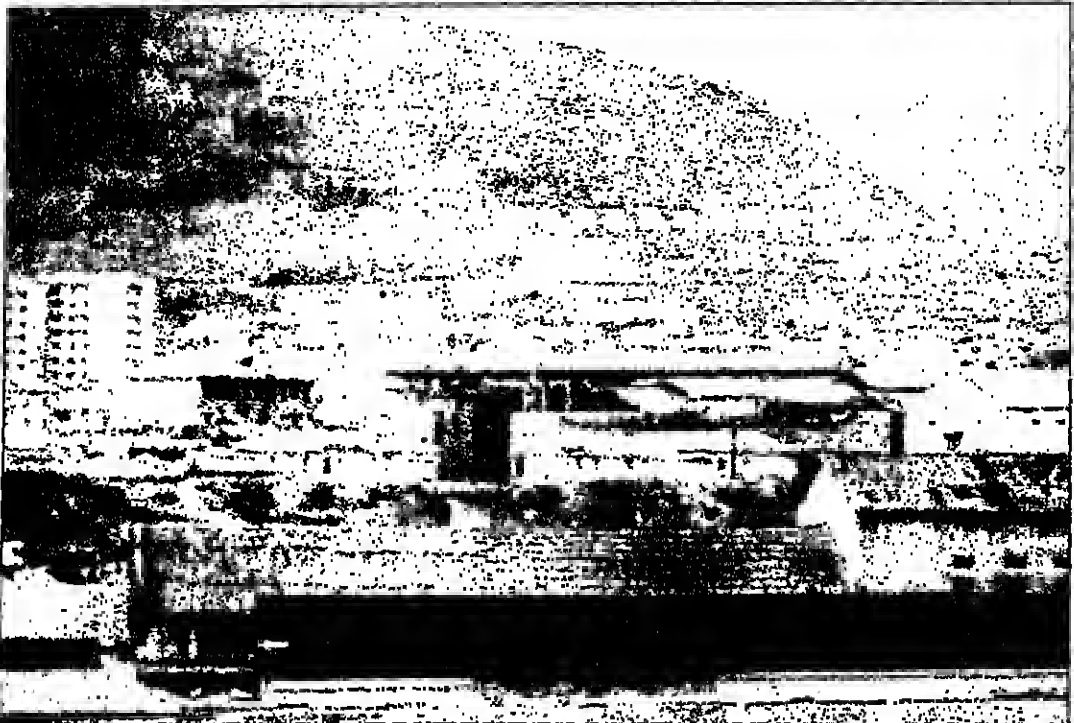
The UN World Food Programme cannot confirm the refugees' reports. The agency had only seven international monitors in North Korea for most of last year. None spoke Korean. It conducted a nutritional assessment last November of under-seven year olds, finding that nearly all suffered from food deficits.

Many observers find it hard to believe that the North Korean regime would hide the evidence of a famine.

But perhaps the leader Kim Jong-il is following the example of Mao Tse-tung, whose regime hid a famine in the late 1950's which historians now believe killed 30 million people. Pyongyang may think it can ride out a catastrophe without ever admitting it happened.



This 30-year-old North Korean woman and child may have been repatriated already
Seokyoung Lee



The letters on the hillside in the distance read: "All hail to the great captain Kim Jong-il, the Sun of the 21st century."
Seokyoung Lee

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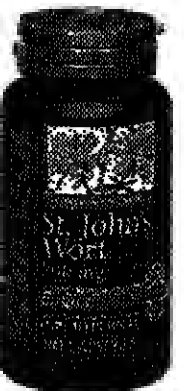
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HK slump so severe even gambling is hit

NO ONE can quite believe it in Hong Kong but for the first time ever horse race betting volumes are down. If evidence were needed that the former colony is heading for a serious recession, this is it.

Horse race gambling is part of the fibre of Hong Kong society. No other place is host to such high levels of betting which amounted to HK\$91.5 billion (£7.2bn) last season.

The decline in betting at the Jockey Club, the sole legal betting outlet, was less than 1 per cent for the racing year, which ended on Sunday. However, any kind of decline is a shock in circumstances where the Jockey Club is accustomed to seeing its revenue rise in a never-ending spiral, leaving it with enough cash to fund a very large number of Hong Kong's hospitals, colleges and a host of other socially beneficial institutions.

The Jockey Club admits the coming season will see an even bigger decline in revenues. Lawrence Leung, the club's chief executive, tried to put a brave face on matters. "When you compare the (club) turnover to the property and stock markets, we've weathered the downturn rather well".

He has a point. Stock prices have fallen by over 50 per cent since their peak last summer and property prices are plunging into seeming freefall, moving down so fast that no one is sure exactly how much they have fallen but it could be as much as 50 per cent in the past 12 months.

The shell-shocked Hong Kong government is slowly

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

coming out of denial and admitting the economy is in bad shape. Yesterday there was another shock to the system when it was admitted unemployment had reached a 15-year high with 4.2 per cent of the workforce out of work. Trade unionists say the real figure is far higher.

These figures do not seem high to people in Europe but they are shocking in Hong Kong where economic growth has been the norm for as long as people can remember. However at the end of last month the government announced the economy had contracted by 2 per cent in the first quarter of the year.

Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's Chief Executive, this week said the official forecast of 3.5 per cent growth for the year was no longer realistic. This has been known to practically everyone in Hong Kong for some time. The fact that the leadership is only now acknowledging the gravity of the situation is hitting its credibility.

The administration is increasingly isolated in its handling of the economic downturn. All the parties in the newly elected legislature, who are sharply divided on most issues, have joined to urge the government to adopt more radical measures and reduce taxation. They have warned that if the government does not listen to their proposals they will use the few powers at their disposal to make it hard for the adminis-

tration to get the funds it requires. There is also the fear that China will renege on its promise not to devalue its currency which in turn will put enormous pressure on the Hong Kong dollar which is at present pegged at a fixed rate to the United States dollar.

The situation is a nightmare for the Hong Kong government

which has no power to tell its new masters in Peking what they should do about economic policy, but which will be seriously affected by policy changes. China stresses it is sensitive to Hong Kong's situation but it is hard to believe Peking will sacrifice the rest of the country for its new possession in the south.

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HAMISH MCRAE

'France has a problem with English. There
has been a rise in the importance of English
in the world economy'

— THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3 —

BRIEFING

Cable makes a comeback

WHAT IS the cable industry up to? Tuesday's two acquisitions by cable operator NTL, worth a combined £1.4bn, have reduced the number of players in the industry to just three from more than 10 a year ago. The mergers have breathed new life into what was once seen as a doomed industry. And if the optimists are to be believed, the advent of the internet means that the cable industry is about to enter a glorious new era.

Time to take cable seriously, page 19

Bruce loses his Courts bonus



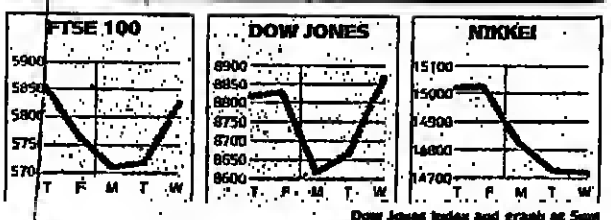
COURTS, the furniture retailer, has axed veteran comedian Bruce Forsyth (left) from its television commercials in a bid to move more upmarket. Mr Forsyth has been appearing in Courts adverts for three years but will not feature in a new campaign scheduled to start in September. "He's done a very good job for us but it's time to move on," said Bruce Cohen, Courts' chief executive. He added that the adverts conveyed a perception that "falls short of reality". The old adverts saw Mr Forsyth dressed as a judge delivering the punch line: "I solemnly want to see you all in Courts." Richard Ratner, retail analyst at Butterfield Securities, said the decision to jettison the game show host "could add 20p to the share price." The new campaign has been masterminded by Lowe Howard Spink, which produces the Courts commercials.

Investment column, page 21

Risk to 116,000 City jobs

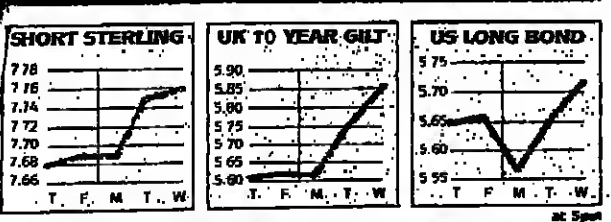
116,000 jobs could be lost throughout the European Union if the City of London loses its place as Europe's leading financial centre, according to a report out today. "The City's Importance to the European Union Economy", written by the Centre for Economics and Business Research and commissioned by the Corporation of London, also predicts that the real cost of European financial services would rise by 15 per cent, were business to migrate from the City. The report argues that the City of London and the economies of the European Union are closely inter-linked.

STOCK MARKETS



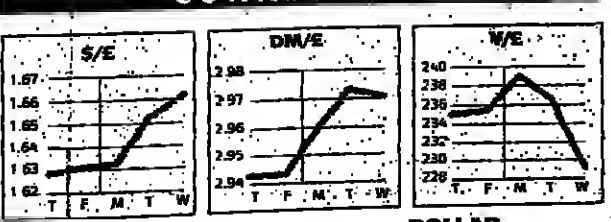
Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Vol
FTSE 100	5832.70	103.00	1.80	6150.50	4382.80	3,97
FTSE 250	5883.90	19.50	0.34	5970.90	4384.20	3,12
FTSE 350	2626.10	34.70	1.33	2646.10	2141.80	3,81
FTSE All Share	2755.85	35.65	1.31	2872.04	2106.59	3,76
FTSE SmallCap	2712.20	3.60	0.13	2793.80	2182.10	2,99
FTSE Fledgling	1478.40	3.40	0.23	1517.10	1225.20	3,02
FTSE AIM	1122.30	0.10	0.01	1146.90	965.90	1,07
FTSE EBLCC 100	1030.82	19.61	1.94			
Dow Jones	8866.32	214.74	2.48	9261.91	6971.32	1,60
Nikkei	14715.38	50.00	0.03	20910.79	14488.21	1,04
Hong Seng	8004.35	477.50	6.35	16820.31	7351.68	5,16
Dax	5709.36	117.79	2.11	5787.70	3487.24	2,80

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr Chg
UK	7.75	7.00	7.00	6.50	5.86	5.48	5.48	-1.66
US	5.69	5.69	5.61	5.28	5.51	5.92	5.72	-1.01
Japan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	1.52	1.06	2.00	-1.10
Germany	3.55	0.43	3.87	0.60	4.83	0.91	5.98	-1.15

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	% Chg	10 yr High	10 yr Low	Yr Ago
Pound	1.6620	+0.033	1.6377			
Dollar	2.9703	0.0007	2.8396			
Yen	228.71	-9.28	185.69			
E Index	106.10	+0.00	100.20			

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	% Chg	10 yr High	10 yr Low	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	10.86	0.29	2.71			
Gold (\$)	291.25	2.70	0.93			
Silver (\$)	5.28	0.14	2.71			
GDP	114.70	2.90	2.53			
RPI	163.50	4.20	2.63			
Base Rates	7.50	0.00	0.00			

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6987	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.60
Austria (schillings)	20.26	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2502
Belgium (francs)	59.59	New Zealand (\$)	3.1763
Canada (\$)	2.3681	Norway (krone)	12.30
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8428	Portugal (escudos)	202.99
Denmark (krone)	11.05	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0272
Finland (markka)	8.2210	Singapore (\$)	2.7262
France (francs)	9.6653	Spain (pesetas)	244.19
Germany (marks)	2.8938	South Africa (rand)	8.4738
Greece (drachma)	489.65	Sweden (krone)	12.97
Hong Kong (\$)	12.42	Switzerland (francs)	2.4119
Ireland (pounds)	1.1402	Thailand (bahts)	64.36
Indian (rupees)	64.16	Turkey (liras)	419539
Israel (shekels)	5.6221	USA (\$)	1.6155
Italy (lira)	232.36		
Japan (yen)	6.2961		
Malaysia (ringgits)	0.6262		
Malta (lira)			

Earnings figures put new pressure on rates

MANY IN the City were yesterday convinced that yet another interest rate rise was on the cards after new figures revealed that average earnings growth broke through the 5 per cent barrier in March.

But not all were in agreement. Some disputed that the jump in earnings was inflationary, saying that one-off bonuses were the main reason. Economists at Goldman Sachs said: "The latest labour

BY LEA PATERSON

data will be of great concern for the Bank of England. Average earnings growth rose by more than expected and the private sector earnings growth is now close to 8 per cent." HSBC Markets, on the other hand, said: "What is reassuring is that most of the upward pressure on earnings growth in recent months has come from bonuses. Pay awards, by contrast,

appear to have stabilised."

There was also disagreement about the significance of the rise in the number of people claiming benefits - the first increase in this measure of unemployment since February 1996. Some saw it as a sign of a slowdown in the economy. Others, though, said the rise of 1,700 in the claimant count in May to 1,364 million was a "statistical blip" and the overall trend was unchanged. "The

rise in unemployment is well within the boundaries of month-to-month fluctuations," said Kevin Gardiner at Morgan Stanley.

The market reaction to the numbers was relatively muted, and the pound ended the day slightly down at DM2.9702. Traders explained that renewed fears of interest-rate rises were priced into sterling on Tuesday when it was revealed that headline inflation

had reached a six-year high.

According to yesterday's data, the headline measure of average earnings was 5.2 per cent higher in March 1998 than March 1997. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated that one-off bonus payments - traditionally paid at Easter - accounted for around 0.9 per cent of this increase.

Excluding bonus payments, headline average earnings were about 4.3 per cent higher

than in March last year, just below the "danger level" of 4.5 per cent. The rule used by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is that earnings growth of more than 4.5 per cent is generally incompatible with its inflation target.

All eyes will now be on the next batch of figures - today's on retail sales - hoping they will give a clearer clue to the outcome of the next MPC meeting.



Beckett: 'Prohibition has been very much the exception, not the rule.' Jeff Moore

Beckett hits back at City critics of mergers policy

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, hit back at City critics of her record on competition policy yesterday and stressed she was not opposed to mergers in principle. Mrs Beckett pointed out that since last May she has considered over 200 mergers and prohibited only four: "Prohibition has been very much the exception and not the rule," she told the British Chambers of Commerce Annual Conference in Birmingham.

She said: "Some have argued that companies should be allowed to escape competition

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

scrutiny at home in the belief that protecting them at home will better equip them to prosper overseas. I do not subscribe to this point of view. I believe competitiveness both at home and in overseas markets is enhanced by competition in our domestic markets."

Mrs Beckett stressed that cases were often complex and judgments may be finely balanced. "Some of you may find it a little hard to reconcile this with the confused view that some,

mainly City journalists, have taken of my approach to mergers," she said.

"You may be wondering whether this is a second case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: that while Mrs Beckett may have an encouraging message for companies, her alter-ego Mrs Block will still put a stop to all their plans."

The truth was more prosaic, she said, depending on the circumstances of each individual case. "I have neither a presumption of, nor predilection for, prohibition."

Outlook, page 19

Gas-fired power ban could add 5% to electricity bills

CONSUMERS COULD face a rise in electricity bills of at least 5 per cent if the Government extends its current ban on new gas-fired power stations, the industry watchdog warned yesterday.

The director general of the electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, said the ban would prevent new companies from entering the generation market and would make it easier for existing players to maintain higher prices.

Mr Littlechild said that competitive pressure was expected to reduce wholesale electricity prices by at least 10 per cent over the next five years. Around half of this saving would be passed on to customers in the form of lower bills.

But consumers would miss out on these price reductions if the Government's energy review, due to be published short-

ly, extended the present moratorium on gas-fired plants beyond its June deadline, he said.

There has been speculation that the Government could call a halt to the construction of such stations in an attempt to boost Britain's ailing coal industry.

"There is a danger that the moratorium could keep prices higher than they otherwise should be," Mr Littlechild said at the launch of Ofgem's annual report.

The regulator said that he might ask large generators such as National Power and PowerGen to sell some of their power stations to increase competition and push down prices. He did not rule out a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to force generators to shed capacity.



Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator

Ofgem's annual report showed that complaints to London Electricity, the capital's power distributor, doubled during 1997 and reached their highest level since 1992.

The increase in complaints almost cost the company the Charter Mark, the Govern-

ment's award for firms with excellent standards of service, the report revealed.

London Electricity, owned by Entergy of the US, managed to retain the mark only after an inquiry concluded that it had taken remedial action and that complaints were falling in the first part of this year.

The company blamed the problem on a reorganisation of its customer services and said that complaints in the first five months of the year were down by 12 per cent over the same period a year ago.

Seaboard registered a 49 per cent increase in complaints, while Scottish Power saw the number of disgruntled customers rise by 42 per cent. However, the overall level of complaints fell 6 per cent in 1997 to 6,622. The average domestic bill was down by around £15 to £255 a year, the report said.

US intervenes to defend yen

THE US leapt to the defence of the yen yesterday, as the White House claimed that Japan had taken important policy steps to turn its economy around.

America spent about \$2bn (£1.2bn) intervening in defence of the yen for the first time in six years. The move marks a major shift for the US, which has so far resisted currency intervention to support other currencies, and indicates the growing concerns about the effect of Asia's crisis on the US and the world economy.

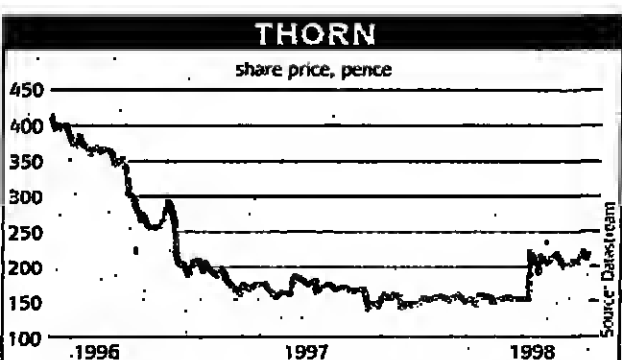
President Bill Clinton said he had spoken on Tuesday night to the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, who had committed Tokyo to boosting its recovery efforts. "I was very encouraged by the Prime Minister's statement that he intends to pursue aggressive reform of their banking institutions and intends to do the

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

things that were necessary to get their economy going again, and therefore I thought it was important that we support them," said Mr Clinton.

But the US Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, indicated that America wanted to see more and faster action from Tokyo to boost the sagging Japanese economy.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, the chief US economic troubleshooter, was due to leave for Tokyo last night, another sign of gathering concern. Other G7 deputy finance ministers were due to convene an emergency meeting this Sunday. Asia's crisis has already hit the US, with a surge of cheap imports undercutting US products and American exports to Asia slumping.



AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSE surged 103 points, its biggest gain for more than four months, to 5,832.7 on US support for the yen. Trading was brisk with gains scored over a wide front although mid-cap shares lagged. Billiton, the South African mining group, led the charge on buy-back plans but Diageo, the spirits giant, and Cadbury Schweppes were not far behind. HSBC, the banking group, rose 104p to 1,540p on hopes that Far East prospects could improve.

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

US STOCKS surged as the Federal Reserve's unexpected intervention in support of the yen brightened the earnings outlook for US exporters. Experts said the decision by the central bank to sell dollars and buy yen marked a reversal of the "strong dollar" policy the US had tacitly advocated so far. The move sent exporters' stocks higher and caused a 215.23-point - 2.5 per cent - jump in the Dow Jones Industrial Average to 8,880.52 at midday.

TOKYO

JAPANESE stocks closed little changed yesterday as dealers were torn between optimism over the prospect of intervention to support the yen and concerns over the banks' bad loans. This left the benchmark Nikkei 225 index 5 points, or 0.03 per cent, lower on the day at 14,715.38. The broader Topix index was slightly higher, adding 0.37 to 1,156.84. The most heavily-traded stock was Long-Term Credit Bank, which fell to its lowest ever - ¥105 - before closing down 19.6 per cent at ¥123.

HONG KONG

HONG KONG yesterday staged its biggest rally since February as the stronger yen pushed down interest rates and eased concerns that the economy will slide deeper into recession. The Hang Seng index rose 477.80 points - 6.4 per cent - to 8,004.35, its biggest gain since 2 February. The rise in the yen allayed fears that the Hong Kong dollar might have to be devalued and helped interest rates down from their recent peaks.

RUSSIA

RUSSIAN stocks rose as investors said the government must have other sources of cash after it cancelled two of three debt auctions scheduled for today. The Russian Trading System index rose 5.83 per cent to 181.99. Stocks and bonds have fallen sharply over the past month on fears the rouble would be devalued. The RTS index is down 55 per cent since 1 January, but stocks rose yesterday as the IMF said it would visit Moscow on Monday to discuss a new loan.

18/BUSINESS

Carlton buys disc maker

CARLTON Communications yesterday took a further step into the world of cutting edge entertainment technology by paying £160m for Nimbus Technologies, a leading manufacturer of video discs.

The move will help silence critics who questioned Carlton's reliance on manufacturing and distributing video cassettes in the midst of major technological changes.

Carlton already owns California-based Technicolor, the world's biggest producer of pre-recorded video cassettes. It hopes to expand Nimbus, a leading maker of video discs, alongside Technicolor.

Video discs have superseded previous technologies in the drive to put visual and audio recordings on to a disc format. They are the size of a compact disc but can store more data, with better clarity of sound and vision than video cassettes.

A previous attempt to market new video technology by Philips, the electronics giant, failed to take off. Philips introduced laser discs - akin to CDs but the size of a vinyl album -

BY ANDREW VERITY



Michael Green, chairman of Carlton

over three years ago. However, video discs - also known as "Digital Versatile Discs" - are proving more popular. Last year over 200,000 video disc players were sold in the US. That compares to sales of 100,000 video recorders when they were introduced in 1975.

Video discs also generate higher profit margins for their manufacturers because they are cheaper to make than CDs, but sell at higher prices.

Prices for the discs are usu-

ally around \$25 (£15) in the US, compared to just \$10 for CDs. They cannot yet be used to record films, although more than one film can be stored on each disc.

Michael Green, chairman of Carlton, said: "Just as the company added video cassettes to its film operations in the 1980s, now we are adding optical discs in the 1990s. Penetration of VCRs, DVD players and PC disc drives are all growing as part of the world expansion of screen-based entertainment."

Lydon Faulkner, chairman and chief executive of Nimbus, said: "Nimbus and Technicolor are an excellent match, and we look forward to working with one of the most respected names in the packaged media industry. We believe there is great potential for rapid growth as a supplier of [video disc] products to the home entertainment and computer software industries."

Nimbus has been a leading manufacturer of video discs - as well as compact discs - since it entered an alliance with Philips in 1982.



Stephen Alexander, legal partner, says the RAC is wrong to limit windfalls to full members

RAC members to sue for slice of £450m

MORE THAN 500 overseas and retired members of the Royal Automobile Club are set to launch a legal action to get a slice of £450m in windfall payments when the club is sold off, writes Randeep Ramesh.

The claim, which could top £50m, contends that the wrong decision was made over who

should benefit from the sale of the 101-year-old organisation. At present only "full" members of the sumptuous Pall Mall RAC club will get a bonus, worth £35,000.

Stephen Alexander, partner with legal firm Epstein Grower, said many overseas members were sent out of the

country by firms and would miss out "through no fault of their own". Retired members, said Mr Alexander, should also have been given the chance to buy back into the club.

The action holds the 17-strong committee which runs the RAC personally responsible for not telling its members of

the impending change in status. A RAC spokesman dismissed the claims. "We have made it very clear who owns the club - it is the members of the Pall Mall club. Nobody else does," he said. The club was investigating "a number of irregularities" over addresses, he added.

IN BRIEF

Liffe contracts move to screen

LIFFE, LONDON'S futures and options exchange, is to move three of its key contracts to APT - its screen-based trading system - later this summer. The exchange said that from 3 August, the German government bond future (the Bund), the Italian government bond future (the BTP) and the five-year gilt future would no longer be traded on the open-outcry trading floor.

Airport trading

THE CIVIL Aviation Authority said it believes that secondary trading in airport slots is essential to the flexible operation of the system, adding that the trading should now be formally recognised so that it can be made transparent, and should no longer be limited to airlines alone. In a report on deregulation, the CAA added that allocation of slots should reflect the value travellers put on them.

Smart-card trial

BARCLAYS PLC said it has commenced a trial of a smart card-based digital signature service called Barclays eSign. The Government is to make the first use of the service by enabling the newly self-employed to register their status across the internet.

Mortgage rise

WOOLWICH YESTERDAY became the latest mortgage lender to raise its mortgage rates following the Bank of England's interest-rate rise two weeks ago. Variable mortgage rates with Woolwich will now cost 8.95 per cent, up 0.25 percentage points, with immediate effect. The rise means that most of the country's borrowers will now be paying an extra £1.50 a month on the average mortgage of £50,000. All of the converted building societies have now raised their rates since the Bank of England decision. The bank made no statement on savings rates.

Savings rates UP AGAIN at Nationwide

FROM 18TH JUNE 1998

NEW RATES FOR PERSONAL INVESTORS

CashBuilder		Net p.a.	
Gross p.a.			
£50,000 +	4.10%	4.08%	
£25,000 - £49,999	4.30%	4.24%	
£10,000 - £24,999	4.50%	3.92%	
£5,000 - £9,999	4.70%	3.70%	
£500 - £4,999	4.40%	3.42%	
£1 - £499	1.70%	1.30%	
CapitalBuilder			
Gross p.a.			
£50,000 +	6.60%	5.28%	
£25,000 - £49,999	6.30%	5.04%	
£10,000 - £24,999	6.00%	4.80%	
£1 - £9,999	5.80%	4.60%	
Monthly Income			
Gross p.a.			
£50,000 +	6.30%	5.04%	
£25,000 - £49,999	6.00%	4.80%	
£10,000 - £24,999	5.70%	4.56%	
£1 - £9,999	5.50%	4.40%	
TESSA			
Gross p.a.			
£1 - £9,999	7.80%	6.24%	
TESSA 2			
Gross p.a.			
£1 - £9,999	7.80%	6.24%	
Bonus Saver*			
Gross p.a.			
£1 +	8.00%	6.40%	
The Smart Account			
Gross p.a.			
£1 +	7.80%	6.24%	
Smart 2 Save			
Gross p.a.			
£1 +	7.80%	6.24%	
Members' Reward Bond			
Annual Gross p.a. Net p.a.		Monthly Gross p.a. Net p.a.	
£1 - £10,000	6.60% 6.48%	8.05% 8.04%	

FlexAccount		Net p.a.	
Gross p.a.			
£25,000 +	4.30%	4.30%	
£10,000 - £24,999	3.80%	3.80%	
£2,000 - £9,999	2.60%	2.60%	
£1 - £1,999	1.70%	1.30%	
Special Renewal Bond			
Gross p.a.			
£100,000 +	8.30%	6.64%	
£50,000 - £99,999	7.90%	6.32%	
£25,000 - £49,999	7.70%	6.10%	
£10,000 - £24,999	7.50%	6.00%	
£1 - £9,999	7.40%	5.92%	
InvestDirect			
Gross p.a.			
£100,000 +	7.70%	6.16%	
£50,000 - £99,999	7.60%	6.08%	
£25,000 - £49,999	7.50%	6.00%	
£10,000 - £24,999	7.40%	5.92%	
£1 - £9,999	7.30%	5.84%	
Bonus 60*			
Annual Gross p.a. Net p.a.		Monthly Gross p.a. Net p.a.	
£100,000 +	7.80% 6.24%	7.60% 6.08%	
£50,000 - £99,999	7.40% 5.92%	7.10% 5.68%	
£25,000 - £49,999	7.10% 5.68%	6.80% 5.44%	
£10,000 - £24,999	6.80% 5.44%	6.40% 5.20%	
£1 - £9,999	6.50% 5.20%	6.20% 4.96%	
* Bonus 60 and Bonus 60 Shareable rates include a 1.00% gross p.a. 10 years net p.a. bonus which is available and is related to the account annually. If the withdrawal is not made during the selected term, the bonus will be added to the account annually. If the withdrawal is not made during the selected term, the bonus will be added to the account annually. If the withdrawal is not made during the selected term, the bonus will be added to the account annually. If the withdrawal is not made during the selected term, the bonus will be added to the account annually. If the withdrawal is not made during the selected term, the bonus will be added to the account annually. If the withdrawal is not made during the selected term, the bonus will be added to the account annually. If the withdrawal is not made during the selected term, the bonus will be added to the account annually. If the withdrawal is not made during the selected term, the bonus will be added to the account annually. 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NEW RATES FOR ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
CapitalBonus 180	£25,000 +	6.85%	5.48%	TaxFree Option Instant	£25,000 +	5.30%	4.24%
	£10,000 - £24,999	6.55%	5.24%		£10,000 - £24,999	4.90%	3.92%
	£1 - £9,999	6.00%	4.80%		£5,000 - £9,999	4.70%	3.70%
CapitalBonus 90	£25,000 +	6.30%	5.04%		£500 - £4,999	1.70%	1.50%
	£10,000 - £24,999	6.00%	4.80%				
	£1 - £9,999	5.80%	4.64%				
CapitalBonus 90	£25,000 +	6.00%	4.80%				
Monthly/Half-Yearly	£10,000 - £24,999	5.70%	4.56%				
	£1 - £9,999	5.50%	4.40%				
BonusBuilder	£25,000 +	5.30%	4.24%				
	£10,000 - £24,999	4.90%	3.92%				
	£5,000 - £9,999	4.70%	3.70%				
	£500 - £4,999	4.40%	3.52%				
	£1 - £499	1.70%	1.50%				
IncomeBond	£10,000 +	6.50%	5.20%				
	£1 - £9,999	6.20%	4.90%				

It pays to decide...



The World's No.1 Building Society



putting members first

the information... (small text about Nationwide's history and services)

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Oliver chairman plans £5.5m rights issue

DENIS CASSIDY, chairman of the shoe retailer Oliver, was heading for a repeat of his confrontation with the founding family of the Liberty department store yesterday when he unveiled plans to push through a rights issue at the company.

The move comes just weeks after the family voted against Mr Cassidy's first fund-raising attempt.

After failing with a placing and open offer, Mr Cassidy is now trying to raise £5.5m via a one-for-one rights issue at 25p per share.

This requires the backing of only a simple majority of more than 50 per cent of shareholders. The last proposal was backed by 63 per cent of investors against the required 70 per cent majority.

The fund raising will issue

25.3 million new shares and the proceeds will be used to fund the conversion of the existing store portfolio to two new formats. Oliver's shares closed a penny lower at 28.5p.

Mr Cassidy said the board remains "absolutely committed" to the business plan outlined to shareholders at the end of April and to the associated fund-raising required to implement the plan.

"We firmly believe that this strategy will continue to command the support of the majority of shareholders and is in the best interests of the company," he said.

Separately, the company said it plans to appoint Martin Watts, the current managing director, as group chief executive after the rights issue has been completed.

The board added that it expects to be able to resume dividend payments once the proposed strategy has progressed to a point where operating cash flow can be expected to sustain both the investment programme and the dividend.

On future prospects, Oliver said that since late November 1997, there has been a period of renewed pressure on prices and margins arising from stock clearances accompanying the disposal of the remaining British Shoe Corporation formats by Sears.

The company said it believes that, whilst the impact of the stock clearance will continue to be felt in the remainder of the first half of 1998, Oliver will benefit from the rationalisation of the sector that has taken place.

All in a day's work for a good watchdog

SO WHAT have Stephen Littlechild and his people at Offer been getting up to? The electricity regulator's annual report for 1997 gives a brief glimpse. The report contains a number of case studies of complaints made by customers against electricity companies.

One customer had a sub-meter installed in 1979 to measure a tenant's electricity use, according to the report.

"The company then set up two accounts, in effect double charging the customer for electricity by the sub-meter," says Offer. The customer complained, but it was not until 1996 that the company acknowledged the error.

Even worse, due to the lack of records the company would only correct the account back to 1987.

Step forward Mr Littlechild and his fearless regulators. The company argued that there was no evidence of over-charging prior to 1987. Offer countered that the weight of evidence "supported the customer's case, and that the over-charge could be estimated from later usage."

The company reconsidered and repaid the customer a further £1,400 to cover the full period. Full marks to Offer.

It's still pretty depressing, however, to read of another case in the report where a customer was overcharged around £1,300 one year because his charges "had been based on readings from a meter that covered not only the customer's property but also an adjacent shop and flat. The account had also been based on a commercial tariff," the report adds.

Thankfully Offer got the company to refund the customer's account. All the same, I think I'll be rechecking my electricity bill.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Michael Doherty, who joined the company as chief executive 10 years ago and became chairman in 1993.

Joseph Matthews, group chief executive of the Cheshire-based company, said yesterday that Mr Doherty would be spending his retirement playing more golf and concentrating on being chairman of a London health trust.

Mr Bryce is a busy man himself, being a director of London First and a member of the CBI's National Manufacturing Council.

Norcross owns Johnson Tyles in Stoke on Trent, as well as Triton Showers and a building adhesives business. Mr Doherty announced at the annual general meeting last year that he would stand down after five years with the company.

THE FINE Art Society, one of Britain's oldest art shops founded in 1876, has got a new chairman. Sir Angus Grossart is to succeed Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden.

Lord Macfarlane has chaired the society, whose shop is in Bond Street in London's West End, since 1976. In fact he is something of a newcomer compared to the rest of the distinguished company's board.

Andrew McIntosh Patrick, managing director, has now been with the company for nearly 44 years. He is only the

fifth managing director in the gallery's 122 years.

The other executive directors, Peyton Skipworth and Simon Edson, have each been with the company for over 30 years. New blood arrived last year, however, in the shape of Gordon Cooke and Annamie Stapleton.

The newest new boy, Sir Angus Grossart, is chairman of hankers Noble Grossart and a vice chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland. He's a regular collector of company directorships, including British Petroleum, Mirror Group and Scottish and Newcastle. I wonder how he finds the time to get to all the board meetings.

AROMASCAN SAID yesterday that Richard Lyman has resigned from the board as executive chairman, with immediate effect.

Peter Ryan, who has held the position of non-executive director since 1994, has agreed to accept the position of non-executive chairman, the company said. Gordon Kuenster and Dr Donald Hetzel, who were appointed to the board on 3 February 1998, will remain with the company.

"They continue to be of great assistance in both the development of the business and the acceleration of the company's product development programme," AromaScan said.

Mr Bryce, 56, succeeds

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COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
AT Group (F)	12.58m (11.22m)	2.18m (1.55m)	7.17p (5.36p)	2.0p (1.38p)	17.05.98	29.06.98
Amber Industries (F)	23.18m (23.12m)	1.64m (3.03m)	1.6p (11.0p)	5.75p (5.75p)	03.06.98	28.06.98
Bedford Property (F)	71.45m (58.33m)	32.2m (29.1m)	15.05p (13.26p)	9.1p (8.45p)	07.08.98	06.07.98
CLM Insurance Fund (F)	-	19.2m (15.7m)	15.31p (12.6p)	12.88p (10.1p)	03.08.98	06.07.98
Courts (F)	484.06m (424.5m)	32.33m (29.46m)	26.86p (26.26p)	4.5p (3.75p)	08.10.98	07.09.98
La Senza (F)	26.62m (18.0m)	-3.6m (1.48m)	-10.7p (4.5p)	nil		
LA Leisure (F)	122.53m (107.68m)	0.903m (1.15m)	1.0p (1.54p)			
LPK Group (F)	3.02m (2.74m)	0.345m (0.285m)	2.55p (2.21p)	1.2p (1.1p)	28.01.98	29.06.98
Reaching Heights Prope (F)	9.54m (4.72m)	2.797m (1.574m)	4.08p (3.22p)	3.85p (3.00p)	09.07.98	28.06.98
Phospharm (F)	0.022m (0.009m)	2.115m (1.192m)	-6.81p (3.86p)	-		
Porter Chemicals (F)	76.88m (72.06m)	5.31m (4.57m)	3.46p (3.15p)	0.9p (0.75p)	28.08.98	27.07.98
Protein Int (F)	0.178m (0.573m)	4.13m (3.83m)	-1.44p (1.1p)	-		
Rebus (F)	87.7m (86.4m)	8.4m (5.8m)	5.74p (4.84p)	2.1p (1.8p)	30.07.98	29.06.98

LAST WEEK I wrote about how

هكذا من الادل

Beckett should explain her Blockits

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, thinks she's getting a rough press when it comes to her approach to mergers policy, or so she said in a speech to the British Chambers of Commerce annual conference in Birmingham yesterday. She's heartily fed up with her reputation as a Mrs Blockit, someone who thinks all mergers are bad, and she is determined to dispel it. The nickname, by the way, was first coined in this column, and it has since been remorselessly plagiarised by others.

In fact nothing could be further from the truth, she says. Merger activity is a normal part of competitive markets and "it can itself stimulate efficiency and improve competitiveness". Blimey! That's a bit of a change of heart isn't it? Is this really the same Mrs Beckett who before the election argued that the public interest test of a merger should be that the bidder demonstrate positive benefits before being allowed to proceed, a process which would have put paid to virtually all acquisition activity?

Mrs Beckett asks to be judged on her record. The reality, she says, is that of the 200 mergers she has considered since last May, only four



OUTLOOK

were prohibited and in all these cases it was in accordance with the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman. Never mind that in one of the cases, Bass/Carlsberg-Tetley, it was against the conditional recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that it be allowed to proceed.

Fair enough. Or is it? In fact Mrs Beckett is being just a little disingenuous with the analysis. The cases of prohibition she refers to are all after lengthy investigation by the MMC. What she fails to point out is that on four other occasions since she came to power she has gone against the advice of the Office of

Fair Trading in referring bids to the MMC, a decision that in at least one case has amounted to a prohibition since it allowed a rival bidder to slip in and snatch the prize.

Nor does she admit to the time-honoured practice adopted by successive Trade and Industry Secretaries of leaning on the Office of Fair Trading to deliver the "right" advice, so that the Government is not embarrassed in having to rule against it. It happened all the time when Michael Heseltine was at the DTI. His Director General of Fair Trading, Bryan Carsberg, eventually got so fed up with it that he resigned for an obscure post in accountancy academia. Mrs Beckett doesn't appear to be an exception. It is, for instance, well known that the DTI bludgeoned the OFT into recommending a reference of Ladbroke's bid for Coral. Not that either side will ever admit to it.

If Mrs Beckett thinks she's misunderstood, then she ought to explain herself a bit better. Everybody else is into transparency of decision-making these days. It doesn't seem to have done the Bank of England any harm. So why not the DTI too? And let's not have the argument that it lays the Secretary of State's de-

visions open to judicial review. A decision which is self-evidently right and justified is not going to be challenged.

Up, up and away for earnings

IS IT all beginning to go wrong for the Iron Chancellor? For a while it seemed that his predecessor, Kenneth Clarke, had achieved the holy grail of economic policy, which is to have economic growth persistently outstripping inflation. That enviable environment of high growth and low inflation now seems to be reverting back to the old British habit of low growth and, if not quite high inflation, certainly higher than anyone would like it.

Yesterday's clutch of economic statistics was a defining moment. Unemployment has started to climb again for the first time in two years, albeit on the old measurement which the new Government prefers not to use. At the same time, earnings are roaring away at a rate which is incompatible with the Government's inflation target. It now looks much more likely the next

change in interest rates will be up rather than down. We're about to be plunged into recession, some pundits are warning.

To some extent the Chancellor is justified in claiming that none of this is his fault. What we are looking at here are the after-effects of the Clarke boom, belatedly and unsuccessfully stoked up to help the Tories win the last election. On the other hand it can also be argued that the Chancellor has dealt with it badly. He's locked himself into an independently determined interest rate policy dictated by rigid adherence to an inflation target that may not be wholly realistic in present circumstances. He's also failed sufficiently to counter the upward shift in interest rates with appropriate cuts in spending and increases in tax. On the former he's doing the reverse.

But while these arguments may have some merit, those who peddle them do so too strongly. The truth of the matter is that the economy is slowing but it is not slipping into recession. The great bulk of the economy demands the interest rate policy which is being independently set by the Bank of England. It is unfortunate that the poor old

manufacturing sector does not, but you cannot have policy dictated by what is now a small and unrepresentative minority of the British economy. For the best assessment, look to the markets, which are much more concerned with what is happening internationally than anything Gordon Brown can be faulted for.

Thorn's beggars can't be choosers

THE HORIZONTAL hold at Thorn went on the blink a long time ago, so yesterday's news that the rentals business has sold its troublesome American operations for a better than expected price must have had battle-weary shareholders pinching themselves. Could this really be true, that the ugly sister of EMI was finally issuing a positive bulletin?

True it is. And not only that but the main thorn in the company's side - a lorry load of US litigation - has been offloaded too, with no on-going liability.

That £545m was a good price was clear enough from the reaction of the shares, which managed to shoot up 10 per cent before the deal had

even been announced (a nice profit but a Stock Exchange inquiry for someone). But does this deal really get this underperforming company off the hook?

It certainly prods Thorn in the right direction. With America gone, management can now concentrate on selling the Scandinavian and Asia-Pacific operations before knocking down to its only remaining region, the UK. This is what Thorn should have done years ago. The model is Thorn's main rival, Granada, which is run for cash and produces a spectacular return. While Granada can use the money to invest in its other growth businesses in leisure and media, Thorn can return it to shareholders.

With its core business declining at the rate of 5 per cent a year and the shares already well above their low, there may not be much left for holders to go for. But with a dividend yield of 8 per cent and the prospect of more capital returns, Thorn may have a viable independent future as a kind of junk bond whose higher risk is compensated for by higher dividend returns. Not exactly what management had in mind when the business was demerged from EMI two years ago but beggars can't be choosers.

Suddenly it's time to take the cable sector seriously

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

WHAT IS going on in the cable industry? Early last year, Britain counted more than 10 cable companies, each with heavy debt loads, poor service levels and - in the case of the ones with stock market listings - dismal share price performances. Cable was a laughing stock, a black hole of an industry that had swallowed up cash but was never likely to offer its investors any kind of decent return.

A little over 12 months on, the picture has changed dramatically. Tuesday's £1.4bn swoop by NTL, the aggressive US operator, on its smaller rivals ComTel and Diamond effectively reduces the number of players in the cable industry to three. Suddenly, cable is being talked of as a serious competitor to British Telecom and British Sky Broadcasting. And, for the first time in living memory, share prices are rising again.

NTL's acquisition is the latest in a string of deals in the sector. First off the mark was Cable & Wireless, which merged its Mercury long-distance operator with cable operators Nynex, Bell Cablemedia and Videotron to form Cable & Wireless Communications. That was followed by NTL's acquisition of rival operator Comcast for \$600m earlier this year. And then Telewest beat NTL in the battle to take control of General Cable with a \$649m bid.

The result is that the cable industry now consists of three companies, each with franchises covering large swathes of the country. NTL, the smallest, has over 5m homes under its control while CWC has more than 6m.

That said, cable operators still have a lot to prove. Since 1984, when the government first parcelled the country up into hundreds of small franchises and sold them off, more than £7bn has been spent digging up roads and uprooting front gardens to bring cable to every home. Experts reckon it will cost at least another £5bn to complete the job.

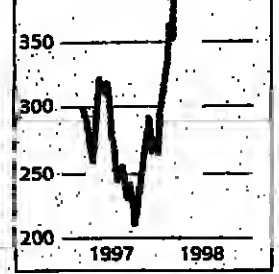
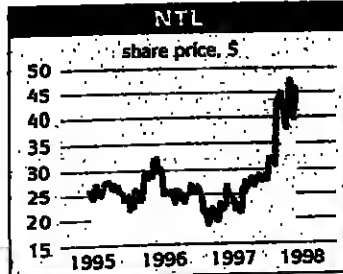
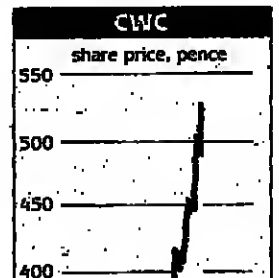
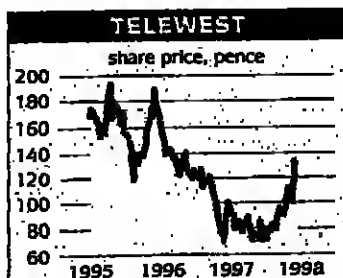
Operators have little to show for all that effort. Even though they have switched from providing just cable television - for which there was little appetite to offering telephone lines as well, just one in five of the

News Analysis: The cable industry has staged a remarkable comeback, leaving British Telecom and BSkyB looking warily over their shoulders

homes which have access to one or more of the services currently takes it.

This is partly for historical reasons. When cable was first introduced, operators only offered television on the assumption that it would enjoy the same success as it had in the US. Telephone lines were only added after 1991, when the Government opened up the domestic telephone market.

A new generation of managers have been brought in to raise service levels, and operators are also improving penetration levels by bundling together a telephone line with a basic package of cable television channels. That combination has allowed NTL to increase penetration levels to around 40 per cent - roughly double the industry average.



	HOMES IN FRANCHISE AREA	HOMES PASSED	TV PENETRATION RATE %
CWC	5,867,369	3,693,826	20.0
Telewest*	4,406,963	3,096,720	22.3
General Cable	1,343,501	794,281	20.4
Telewest total	5,752,464	3,891,001	
NTL	2,090,000	861,495	35.9
Comcast	1,059,898	661,230	26.0
ComTel	1,117,977	854,680	17.8
Diamond Cable	1,229,900	405,787	20.8
NTL total	5,497,775	2,783,192	

*as at 1/1/98. Source: Cable Communications Association

However, cable operators also have themselves to blame for their travails. In their drive to lay cable as quickly and cheaply as possible, serving the customer was often an afterthought. "This was an industry run by civil engineers and accountants," says one industry veteran. As a result, many people who connected to the service soon became disillusioned and switched off again. Slowly the focus is changing.

"We started listening to our customers," boasts Barclay Knapp, NTL's chief executive. "We didn't try to cram more trashy American television down their throats."

Industry executives are even more bullish about the future. They argue that the UK cable network is, in effect, the information superhighway so beloved of New Labour. By laying fibre-optic cable, the cable companies are now able

to offer high-speed access to the internet and interactive television, with all the related services such as home shopping and home banking.

This means that, for the first time, cable operators have an advantage over competitors such as British Sky Broadcasting, who do not have access to a fixed network when offering interactive services.

"Everybody is looking for the silver bullet that will drive penetration," says Richard Woolam, managing partner of the consultancy European Communications Network. "The fact is that cable is the perfect delivery mechanism for broadband services."

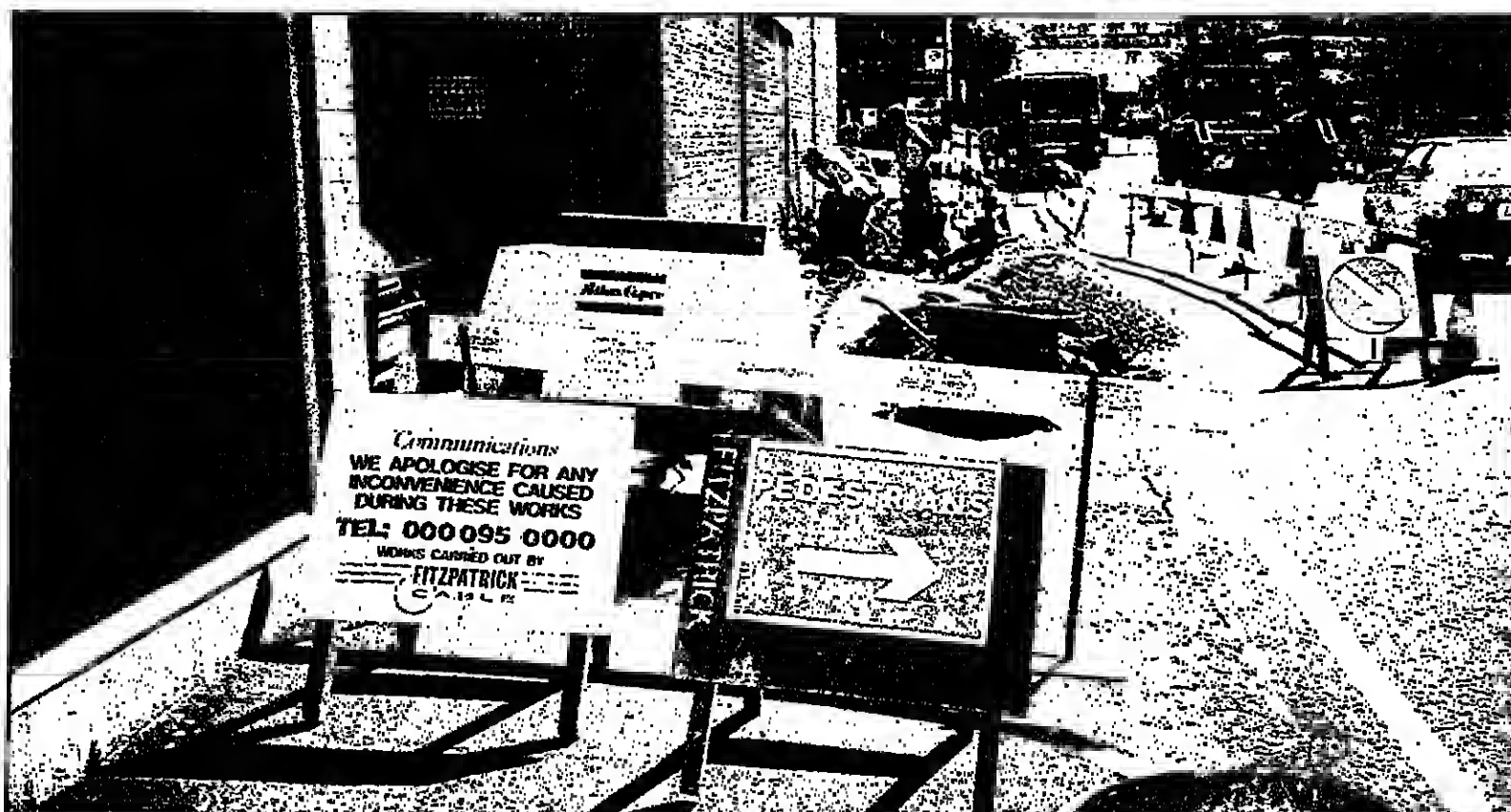
This does not mean that the cable industry is out of the woods, however. Analysts suggest that operators still have a lot to do to attract business users, whose use of telephone lines is more intensive and therefore more profitable. They also argue that the number of cable companies may have to shrink even further to two or maybe even just one, in order to fully exploit the efficiencies of having a national network.

Nothing is likely to happen soon, however. All three cable companies still have to digest their most recent acquisitions. NTL and Telewest are also heavily burdened with debt which makes it hard for them to pursue further mergers.

Consolidation is also complicated by the companies' shareholding structures. Cable & Wireless, which has a controlling stake in CWC, would be reluctant to see its shareholding diluted if the company chose to issue shares. Meanwhile, Telewest's destiny is largely in the hands of its major shareholder, the telecom operator US West.

"There clearly is a logic for more consolidation but the real question is on whose terms it will take place. In our view it should be CWC's because of its much stronger financial position," says Chris Godsmark, telecoms analyst at stockbroker Henderson Crosthwaite.

Nevertheless, the cable industry's return from the dead still amounts to a major achievement. The companies will now have to prove that, with the outlook more rosy than it has ever been before, they can finally start to make a return for their long-suffering investors.



In its early days, the cable industry's most obvious presence was gaping holes in pavements as it strove to cover the country, causing huge annoyance. Then the industry was led by engineers and accountants: now the marketing experts are putting together attractive bundles of services for consumers
Rex Features

DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE
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The Independent and Lavazza Coffee, who are an official sponsor of the World Cup 98, are offering one lucky reader the chance to win a pair of tickets to watch the game between England and Colombia live in Lens on Friday 26th June. The winner will be a guest of Lavazza Coffee - "The Italian's favourite coffee". The winner will have to make their way to London to rendezvous at the Lavazza offices in Chiswick for an early start to France on the morning of June 26th. The trip includes travel from London, accommodation, dinner and transfers to and from the match. You will return to London on the 27th June.

Q: - Who scored England's first goal in France 98?

- a) Shearer
- b) Scholes
- c) Sheringham

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Low	High	Price	Chg	1M	YTD	52 Wk	Div	Div Yield	Price	Chg	1M	YTD	52 Wk	Div	Div Yield
247	IBM Corp	223	0.0	1.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	247	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
248	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	248	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
249	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	249	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
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253	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	253	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
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258	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	258	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
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300	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	300	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
301	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	301	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
302	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	302	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
303	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	303	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
304	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	304	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
305	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	305	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
306	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	306	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
307	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	307	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
308	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	308	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
309	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	309	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
310	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	310	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
311	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	311	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
312	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	312	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
313	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	313	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
314	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	314	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
315	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	315	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
316	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	316	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
317	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	317	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
318	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	318	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
319	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	319	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
320	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	320	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
321	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	321	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
322	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	322	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
323	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	323	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
324	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	324	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
325	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	325	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
326	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	326	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
327	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	327	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
328	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	328	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
329	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	329	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
330	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	330	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
331	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	331	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
332	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	332	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
333	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	333	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
334	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	334	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
335	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	335	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
336	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	336	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
337	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84	337	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.84	1.0
338	IBM Corp	245	0.5	7.4	9.9	1178	216	2.84							

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Age Group	Percentage
18-29	85%
30-49	80%
50-69	75%
70+	70%

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American support boosts Footsie

FOOTSIE ENJOYED its first three-figure gain for more than four months as world stock markets responded to America's helping hand for the beleaguered Japanese yen.

With Hong Kong staging a recovery and New York in ebullient form, blue chips were back in buoyant mood with double-digit gains. But Footsie's 103 points up to 5,332.7 contrasted sharply with the performance of the mid cap index, down 19.6 at 5,683.9. The second lingers, which had been in rampant form, have slithered in the last six sessions with their index falling 282.5. Government stocks were also weak, falling by up to a pound.

The US intervention, seen as what could be a decisive move in tackling the Asian slump, predictably lifted shares with strong Far Eastern connections with HSBG scoring a 104p gain to 1,540p.

Still, trading was not heavy and many market men, although relieved at the sudden change of sentiment, were suspicious of the upsurge, suggesting it lacked conviction.

Billiton led the Footsie charge. Its progress owed little to the new

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

hope for improvements in the Far East. A planned share buy-back was responsible for a 10.75p gain to 137.25p.

Less than a year after extracting cash from optimistic investors via a London flotation the South African mining group has decided to buy back up to 10 per cent of its capital.

The group is exploiting its poor share performance. The shares arrived last summer at around 222p, subsequently reaching 249p. They were hit by poor metal prices and were resting near their low ahead

of the buy-back announcement.

Dresner Kleinwort Benson will, no doubt, be pleased by the Billiton initiative. It is thought to have a large parcel of the stock stuck on its book, acquired as part of a bought deal at around 150p a share.

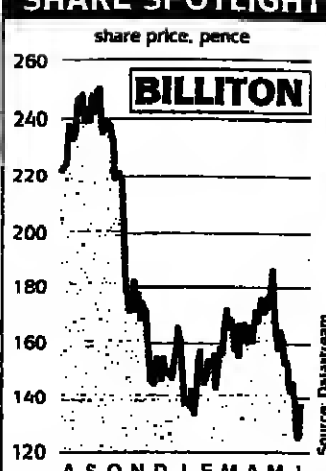
Other blue chips to race higher included Nycomed Amersham, the health care group. SG Securities said buy following the Swedish investment presentation. Spirits giant Diageo strengthened 47.5p to 787p on rumoured Morgan Stanley interest and Marks & Spencer shrugged off suggestions of poor sales with a 77p plus to 560p.

The Glaxo Wellcome bid for SmithKline Beecham story continued to circulate with Glaxo up 56p to 1,775p and SB 11.5p to 735.5p.

It was not, of course, all one-way traffic. British Energy took a pasting, falling 42p to 53p. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell was thought to have reduced its stance to underweight. BTR, thought to be on the City investment round, fell 3p to 174p with DKB making negative noises.

Readers added 17p to 708p ahead of a technology seminar on Monday. British Petroleum, planning to

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



boost its Alaskan output by more than 20 per cent over the next few years, gained 12p to 87p. It explained its intentions to analysts, looking over its Alaskan operations.

BT rose another 26.5p to 698.5p. BT Alex Brown has an 800p target and believes the shares could, in certain favourable circumstances, reach 950p.

Vaux, the Sunderland group

where takeover talks ended on Friday, rose 10p to 325p. Reports Enterprise Inns would be prepared to buy the brewers' pub estate seemed to prompt the gain.

Thorn, the rental chain, had an eventful session. The shares ended at 220p, up 10.5p, after touching 237.5p in hectic dealing. The boys in dark glasses got hold of a story that the mooted takeover bid was on its way and piled in. But the bid, rumoured to be from the Barclay brothers, failed to materialise; instead Thorn started its overseas withdrawal by selling its US operations to Renters Choice for \$545m.

ISA International, a distributor of information processing equipment, produced the session's profit warning and promptly collapsed a further 21.5p to 41p.

The mysterious goings on at Huntingdon Life Sciences on Tuesday were solved when it became apparent Robert Fleming had sold most, if not all, of its 14.46 per cent shareholding. Most of it seems to have ended up with the market-making arm of Merrill Lynch.

The stock was dumped with

Huntingdon becoming aware of Fleming's departure around mid-morning. The testing agency, which was hit by allegations of cruelty to animals in its laboratories last year, is a target of animal rights activists who have threatened to embarrass fund managers supporting the company. The shares, down a further 1p to a 17.5p low, crashed 15p on Tuesday.

Oliver, the shoe shop chain, fell 1p to 28.5p as chairman Denis Cassidy made another attempt to raise £5.7m. Norbain, the closed circuit TV group, put on 6.5p to 281.5p. Butcherfield, the stockbroker, said the recent weakness offered a good buying opportunity. Analyst Luke Ahern sees profits £4.75m last year and £5.75m this year.

Despite the signs that car groups are under pressure, with two profit warnings in the past few days, HR Owen, the upmarket car dealer, edged ahead 0.75p to 17.75p. There is talk of a possible bid - with Penragon the name on the forecourt - or an attempt to take the group private. Chief executive Nicholas Lancaster last week lifted his interest to 21.7 per cent.

FIRST CHOICE, Britain's third largest holidays group which embraces the Air 2,000 airline, is rumoured to be planning to swoop on EasyJet, the cut price airline planning a stock market flotation. EasyJet, started in 1985, is owned by the Haji-loan-nor family. It has seven aircraft. Price of the deal is said to be around £110m.

DEAN CORPORATION, the builder and property services group, has taken over a property maintenance company, Castellain, for up to £250,000. The shares softened to 15.5p.

COMINO, THE software group, weakened 10p to 267.5p, although stockbroker Williams de Broe is bullish. Analyst Peter Whitting looks for profits of £2.6m this year and £3.2m next. Recent strength of the shares has given the group the scope to make more acquisitions.

SEAG VOLUME: 943 million
SEAG TRADES: 67,683
GILT INDEX: 104.9-1.05

Billiton buyback adds value to shares

INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY NIGEL COPE

GIVEN THAT Billiton raised about £1bn when it joined the London stock market at a share price of 220p a year ago, the news that it is planning to buy back some of those shares at almost half the price is hardly cause for celebration.

Nevertheless, the market was overjoyed to hear yesterday that Billiton is seeking permission to buy in 10 per cent of its share capital, and pushed up the shares 11.5p to 138p.

In truth, the mining group has had a dismal time since it was spun off from the South African giant, Gencor, last year. The turmoil in the Asian economies has knocked commodity prices and the share prices of most mining firms. Matters were made worse for Billiton last month when a stockbroker bungled a large share placing.

According to the finance director, Mick Davies, the board reckons the shares offer good value at these levels. But should investors come to the same conclusion? Billiton's shares have fallen a long way. Its earnings and growth prospects have taken a serious knock, and so far there appears to be little sign that things are looking up.

To spend close to £300m of

newly-raised cash buying back 10 per cent of its share capital also shows a lack of imagination on Billiton's part. The company argues that the buyback will not restrict its ability to invest or make acquisitions. But its failure to deliver the deals it hinted at last summer - even though potential targets are rapidly becoming cheaper - is hardly encouraging.

Given that the actual buyback will have to wait until the Government clarifies its changes to advance corporation tax, the market may be getting overexcited. But Billiton has highlighted the value in its shares. Even after yesterday's rise, they now trade on a forward multiple of less than 10 times June 1999 earnings. Good value.

Courts comes bouncing back

COURTS, the furniture retailer, may have axed Bruce Forsythe

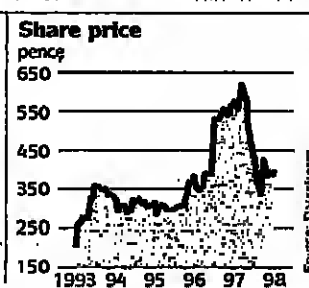
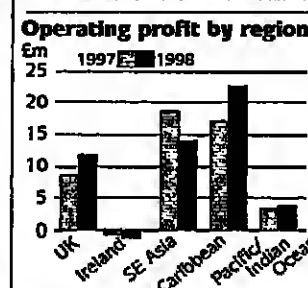
from its television advertising, but shareholders could still be in for a "Bruce Bonus" if the company keeps trading as solidly as this. Full-year profits of £32.3m were ahead of expectations and were achieved in spite of currency effects and the financial turmoil in the Far East which accounts for a hefty chunk of sales.

In the UK, same-store sales were ahead by 11.7 per cent on the previous year on a like-for-like basis. This is impressive given recent profits warnings from rivals such as DFS, MFI and Carpetright. These companies have blamed slowing sales on higher interest rates and the poor weather over the Easter holiday weekend, and Courts too could have been a victim. But though its sales growth has slowed to around 5-6 per cent, on current trading it is still gaining market share at these levels.

What is the secret? Courts claims its larger stores enable it to offer a wide range of furniture, carpets and fabrics,

COURTS: AT A GLANCE

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	251.9	297.4	335.8	424.4	484.1
Pre-tax profits (£m)	25.6	36.5	22.7	29.4	32.3
Earnings per share (p)	29.0	14.2	20.1	26.2	28.8
Dividends per share (p)	2.5	2.85	3.0	37.5	4.5



while most of its rivals concentrate on just one sector. Added to this "one stop shop" approach is its new line in electrical goods which are pulling in more shoppers even though the costs of the roll-out means they are unlikely to be a money-spinner just yet.

Elsewhere, operating profits in the Far East fell by 25 per cent. But total sales still grew so profits should bounce back when the exchange rates stabilise. The flotation of the Malaysian business has been postponed due to the turmoil but will be re-examined later.

Thin margins at ISA

THINGS ARE looking grim for ISA International. The distributor of office supplies and stationery yesterday issued its second profit warning in seven months, and saw its already-battered share price collapse 34 per cent to an all-time low of 41p. The company said a squeeze on margins in its core markets meant that 1998 profits would be "materially below current market expectations" of around £8.7m.

City analysts slashed their forecasts for pre-tax profits to £6m in response and warned of more trouble to come.

ISA's woes are unlikely to ease in the near term. The European market for printer cartridges, toners and similar electronic office supplies, which accounts for the bulk of the company's sales, is highly competitive and margins on these

goods are likely to remain depressed.

More traditional office supplies, such as pens and paper, yield higher margins, but ISA is a relative newcomer to the market and will need time to integrate John Heath & Co, the stationery wholesaler it bought in February.

Optimists point out that in the long run, cross-selling of electronic supplies and traditional stationery should bolster profits. Failing that, the slump in shares from their peak of 240p, reached in December 1996, could attract the interest of a predator.

But with most of ISA's competitors struggling with similar problems, it is hard to see where a bid might come from. So, even with its bargain-basement rating of five, ISA looks one to stay well clear of. For those unlucky enough to hold the stock already, however, there does not seem much point in bailing out at these low levels.

Premier and Shell join forces

PREMIER OIL and Royal Dutch/Shell's unit Shell Exploration BV yesterday announced they had agreed to combine their onshore exploration, development, and production interests in Pakistan into a joint venture company valued at about \$390m.

Premier will hold a 50.1 per cent equity interest and act as operator of the joint venture company, which will manage existing and future onshore upstream activities.

The venture is the second major alliance Shell has formed with an independent oil company to search mainly for gas in the region and reflects both Shell's thirst for new gas supplies in Asia and the expertise of smaller companies in exploiting those reserves.

Shares of Premier rose 1p to 46.75p. Shell Transportation & Trading shares in London, reflecting 40 per cent of the group, were up 2p at 420p.

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0.00	11	7
0.00	12	0
-0.04	5	40
-0.34	4	40
-0.44	1	54
-0.40	1	58

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US Open: Colin Montgomerie believes players must rely on precision with 'potential disaster' waiting at every hole

Accuracy the key to Olympic success

BY ANDY FARRELL
in San Francisco

OLYMPIC CLUB sits on the infamous San Andreas fault line, but during the three previous US Opens played here, record books show no seismic activity. The shocks were solely of the golfing kind as Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer and Tom Watson were all defeated by opponents expected to disappear down their own fault lines.

With Jack Fleck, Billy Casper and Scott Simpson the previous winners at Olympic, predicting a winner here is clearly as inexact a science as weather or earthquake forecasting, even before considering a field that is as wide open as the fairways are narrow.

So far this week there have been a couple of minor tremors. One last

Olympic measures just 6,797 yards, but it plays longer than on paper, as three of the par-threes are short by modern standards and the par-four seventh stretches to just 288 yards, but requires pin-point precision. "Potential disaster awaits on every hole," Monty said.

Watson, who says he has never seen thicker rough and that if the wind blows the winning score could be over par, tipped left-to-right hitters to do well. "I wish I still faded the ball," Montgomerie sighed. "But it's nice to hear a player of that status think I am among the favourites."

With shot-making perhaps the requirement this week, as old-fashioned a concept as that might be in the days of the power game, Justin Leonard, himself a throwback to more chivalrous days, is attracting attention. Just 26 on Monday, Leonard has outstanding pedigree as a winner of the Open last July and of the US Players' Championship in March.

David Duval, with five victories since October, comes into the same category as does Jose Maria Olazabal. If the Spaniard really has solved his driving problems, as he suggested at Westchester last week, an addition to his 1994 Masters win cannot be far away. Lee Westwood must also come into consideration, with the proviso that he has not yet contended for a major before. He is, though, a quick learner.

Doubts remain, however, about the top two players on the world rankings. Els, whose back spasms could not have hit at a worse time, is tentatively easing himself back into action, but admitted: "Maybe I should just slow down a bit for a couple of weeks. There will be more US Opens and British Opens."

His only saving grace is that there is less need to unfurl his driver at full power. "You just can't rip a driver down every fairway. You have to be patient. You are playing boring golf again, trying to hit fairways and greens and make pars," he said.

If that is good for the defending champion it is not a style of golf with which Woods is familiar. None of his professional victories have come on tight golf courses. "I am only 22," he said. "I have a lot of time to play in this tournament. As time goes on I'm going to improve and really learn how to play US Open courses. You have to have a different mindset from normal tournaments."

If Mark O'Meara, the Masters champion, arrived here as Woods did last year - as the only man capable of the Grand Slam - Woods has his own double in mind. Sunday is Father's Day and Woods has already won this year on Mother's Sunday. "It would be pretty cool," he said. "I'm 50 per cent there."



Colin Montgomerie: 'I have an advantage when you need length and accuracy, but here you just need accuracy'

Reuters

Hole	Woods	Fleck	Palmer	Watson	Par
1	533	5	10	422	A
2	394	4	11	430	A
3	223	3	12	416	A
4	438	4	13	186	3
5	457	4	14	423	A
6	437	4	15	157	3
7	268	4	16	609	A
8	137	3	17	468	A
9	433	4	18	347	A
Out	3,340	35	18	3,457	35
Total	6,797	yards	par	70	

Sunday reached 4.0 on the Richter Scale. "It is a lot better to have a series of small tremors like these," cartographic technician Tamara Wilson said. "They help relieve the pressure on the big faults and lessen the chances of a major quake."

Much the same could be said about Colin Montgomerie and the Scot is determined to arrive on the first tee today in as relaxed a frame of mind as possible. With two seconds and a third in the last six years, Montgomerie has been agonisingly close following Tony Jacklin in 1970 as a British winner of the US Open. Last year Monty won the European Grand Prix the week before going to Congressional, where he opened with a brilliant 63. But the following day he slumped to a 76, after which he never quite caught Ernie Els.

This time the preparation has been different. Montgomerie flew out to San Diego last week for a few days' practice and is fully acclimatised to the eight-hour time difference. Much of his confidence is built on the fact that he has his three-wood both long and straight.

While it is no surprise that Tiger Woods will be surrendering his driver for a two-iron to negotiate the tree-lined doglegs, it is a blow for Monty that he will not have his favourite club in his hands as often as he would like. "I have an advantage when you need length and accuracy, as at Congressional," he said. "Here, you just need accuracy."

Forever the bridesmaid risks the bride's wrath

KEN PEYRE-FERRY is one of the 44 players who will today make their debut in the US Open but the only one facing a family crisis if he performs well, writes Andy Farrell.

Playing in his national championship has been a long-held ambition of the 49-year-old club pro from New Jersey. He filled in application forms for the qualifying for almost 30 years. This year he almost did not bother since Kenny, his son and assistant pro at Little Mill in Marlton, is due to get married on Saturday.

"With your luck," Kenny said, "you'll make it this time." Last week Peyre-Ferry, with Kenny as his caddy, arrived at the last hole at a qualifier requiring a birdie to book a trip to the Olympic Club and his approach finished 15 feet from the hole.

"There were no words exchanged; our eyes just met," Ken said. "There were so many things going through our heads. All that planning and all that preparing had all come together in one split second. Finally, Kenny says: 'Dad, you make this and we're in a world of trouble.'"

The wedding has been 18 months in the planning and the bride, Pam Wilson, was far from happy at the disruption to the schedule. "You can't blame her," said her future father-in-law. "This is my fault for qualifying."

The rehearsal, planned for today, the opening day of the US Open, was moved forward to last Monday. Kenny then flew across the country to San Francisco to join his father on Tuesday. He will caddy for the first two rounds before jumping on the "red-eye" overnight flight and arriving back on the east coast eight hours before he is due at the altar.

If Peyre-Ferry misses the cut, as he has done in all four of the PGA Club Pros Championships he has played in, then he will be on the plane as well. If he qualifies for the last two rounds, he has a faces a dilemma he has yet to resolve. "Would you miss your only son's wedding?" he asks.

If anyone is talking him into staying, it is Kenny. "I honestly felt I should be at the wedding no matter what but Kenny has been adamant, very adamant that I should stay."

Old club aids Bottomley

BY JOHN OAKLEY

STEVEN BOTTOMLEY, the 33-year-old Yorkshireman from Bingley, brought back memories of his performance at the 1995 Open at St Andrews, when he returned to a discarded putter in Madeira yesterday.

Bottomley, whose golf has gone into a severe slump during the past 18 months, shot an eight-under-par 64 in the Madeira Island Open pro-am, and it was the putter he used at St Andrews that did the damage.

He shot 69 in the final round to finish joint third, one shot behind John Daly and Costantino Rocca at St Andrews, using a Ping B61 putter. However, last year, after losing his European Tour card, he discarded the club and has used another 10 putters this year.

"Last week in Austria, I putted

horribly. I went into my big bag of putters - I've got quite a few - and brought out the old Ping B61, which nearly won me the Open when I sank putts from all over the place."

This week, all the European Tour's leading players are competing in the US Open, and Bottomley added: "This is a great week for me. It's a chance to do what Thomas Levet, the French guy, did earlier in the season - come from nowhere and make your whole year. Today, I holed a few really good putts and my confidence is certainly returning. I just hope I can keep it up."

Unlike Bottomley, the South African Wayne Westner, one of the biggest names in the Madeira field, will not be given the chance to make his year. Westner tore ankle ligaments at the 11th hole during the pro-am after driving close to the lake. He was standing on wooden sleepers when a rotten one collapsed under him, and he fell more than six feet. His ankle was put in a cast at the local hospital, and his tournament was over before it had begun.

Westner should have played with two former winners - the Spaniard

Santiago Lema and Sweden's Mats Lanner - in the first round today and there is no reserve available.

Lema, who won in Madeira in 1995 and was second in the Benson and Hedges at the Oxfordshire Golf Club last month, is 16th in the Order of Merit and is favourite to win here again.

Colin Montgomerie is second favourite behind Tiger Woods at the start of today's US Open, and at 9-1 with Ladbrokes, the American is the biggest price he has been for any tournament in the past year.

The 1997 US Masters winner has dominated the bookies' lists for every tournament he has contested since, but the Briton is closing the gap. Montgomerie is 12-1 for the tournament at the Olympic Club. A Ladbrokes spokesman said: "Although Monty has never won a major, he has come closest in the US Open - and we think this represents his best chance yet. Tigermania has waned in the last 12 months - Woods was as low as 3-1 for some tournaments, but not any more."

Behind Woods and Montgomerie, Ladbrokes rate last year's winner, Ernie Els, at 14-1 to retain his title.

England turn off charm as Uttley ushers away hosts

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT
in Dunedin

MOST NEW Zealanders subscribe to the view that England's current crop of rugby tourists should spend at least some of their spare time exploring alternative employment opportunities. On yesterday's evidence, the visitors can abandon any thoughts of a collective career in the security services. Clive Woodward's cloak and dagger attempts to keep the All Blacks guessing in advance of this weekend's opening Test backfired when around 100 students and the entire South Island media descended on a training session he assumed was being held behind closed doors.

Quite how the England coach reached that assumption may forever remain a mystery, having elected to use the excellent Otago

University facilities here, he might have anticipated some interest from the large and enthusiastic rugby fraternity, especially as a big college game was in progress not 20 metres away from the training pitch. In the event, it was left to Roger Uttley, the tour manager, to evict the students from part of their own campus.

Given that some 3,000 spectators had been permitted to watch the All Blacks train in Queenstown earlier in the week, England were made to look both small-minded and paranoid. Uttley went about his awkward task in gentlemanly fashion but the incident remained the public relations version of an own goal. A charm offensive without an ounce of charm.

The almost oceanic gulf between the two sides in terms of experience and proven expertise made it difficult to imagine any All Black lying awake at night, fretting over the England line-up. Woodward may, how-

ever, succeed in taking the New Zealanders by surprise with yet more bold, make-do-and-mend experimentation in his much-maligned back division.

Tim Stimpson, still a little short of match fitness but very much in the swing of things with his goal-kicking, spent most of yesterday's session on the right wing. Josh Lewsey, meanwhile, was running at inside centre, with Jonny Wilkinson in his favoured position of stand-off and Matt Perry in his optimum role of full-back. Nick Beal and Austin Healey completed the unit at outside centre and left wing respectively.

Woodward is well capable of tinkering with his selection until shortly before kick-off, but yesterday's formation had a logical look to it, as well as an inventive one. Stimpson possesses the physical clout to compete with Jonah Lomu - indeed, he stopped Lomu stone dead at Twickenham during Eng-

land's match with the New Zealand Barbarians 18 months ago - and while he is lacking a yard of pace after a frustrating season on the Newcastle margins, his big hoof of a right boot would be an invaluable asset.

So, too, would Lewsey's defensive capabilities in the face of the threat posed by Andrew Mehrtens and Walter Little in the All Black midfield. Woodward has identified the Bristol youngster as his most secure back-line lacker and the absence of both Steve Raveuscroft and Jos Baxendell from yesterday's work-out suggested that the selectors had bitten the bullet and backed their gamblers' instincts.

No such shots in the dark for the All Blacks, of course. A calf strain suffered by Anton Oliver, the successor to Sean Fitzpatrick as hooker and chief winder-up, was the only worry for John Hart and his coaching staff as the home side



Stimpson: Lomu face-off

completed their preparations in the dramatic surroundings of Queenstown and flew to Dunedin yesterday.

"I expect Anton to come through, every bit as much as I expect England to pose a formidable challenge, especially up front in the forwards," said Hart with his customary degree of diplomacy.

On the quiet, he also expects his team to win by a distance, especially as Little, Robin Brooks and Michael Jones have passed fitness tests. Suddenly, the Wallabies in Brisbane seem a soft touch.

McKenzie makes Scots' line-up for second Test

KEVIN MCKENZIE is the choice for hooker in the Scotland side to face the Wallabies at Ballymore on Saturday in the second of the two-Test series.

The Stirling player, who played all but six minutes of the first Test last Saturday after replacing the injured Gordon Bullock, held off the challenge of Steve Brotherstone, who is named on the bench.

McKenzie's selection reflects the need for as much experience as possible in the team and the belief that the hooker's shortcomings at the throw-in can be rectified.

"We have been working with McKenzie and equally so Brotherstone to make sure each is equally adept. The throws have to be accurate," said the Scotland coach, Jim Telfer.

Scotland have fitness worries over the wing Derrick Lee, who picked up an injury in the midweek side's 27-22 defeat by Queensland in Brisbane on Wednesday. Lee has bruising on his Achilles tendon and did not take part in training yesterday.

If Lee is ruled out then the like-

lihood is that Craig Joiner will play on the right wing and Hugh Gibson, who put in an impressive performance at full-back against Queensland and who is unlikely not to be named in the squad of 22, will be promoted to the replacements' bench.

Ireland will field an unchanged side for Saturday's second Test in Pretoria. Ireland lost the first Test 37-13 in Bloemfontein last Saturday, but surprised the Springboks with that performance.

SCOTLAND (v Australia, second Test, Ballymore, Saturday): G McKenzie; G Lee, C Murray, R Shephard, S Longstaff; G Townsend, B Radpath; D Hilton, K McKenzie, M Proudfoot, S Murray, S Grimes, R Walmsley (capt), E Peters, G Simpson, Replacements: C Joiner, D Hodge, G Burns, A Roubrough, S Campbell, G McWham, S Brotherstone.

IRELAND (v South Africa, second Test, Pretoria, Saturday): C O'Shea; J Bligh, M McCall, K Maggs, O Hodge, E Elwood, C McGuinness, V Costello, A Ward, G O'Connell, M O'Keefe, P John (capt), P Wallace, K Wood, J Fitzpatrick.

London Scottish have secured a ground-sharing arrangement with Harlequins next season. Scottish, newly promoted to Premiership One, will play at The Stoop for an initial three-year period. The Exiles' decision means that there will be no top-flight rugby at Richmond Athletic Ground next term.

24/RACING

Punch a serious prospect

By RICHARD EDMONDSON

IF David Elsworth ever buys anything out of your car boot you have made a mistake. That is because the little stall at Romsey market and it is a characteristic that has served him well in later life.

Elsworth has liked a bargain ever since the days he ran a stall at Romsey market and it is a characteristic that has served him well in later life. While others at racing's sales have splashed out the sort of criminal numbers that appear under a villain's mug shot, Elsworth has eschewed the flashy pedigrees and prices in search of a good, cheap horse. He's managed it with Indian Ridge and In The Groove, who both cost 20,000gns, and Seaside Rhyme, a \$51,000 purchase. Now he hopes the touch is still there with Persian Punch.

Today's Gold Cup favourite has already proved himself worth at least a zero more than his 14,000gns price, but if he wins the most prestigious race of the Royal meeting it will be conclusive proof that the Elsworth touch is still there. "Try to buy a Gold Cup winner for the sort of money I paid for him," the trainer says. "I'm quite chuffed about that, but he hasn't won yet mind you."

Elzy has been missing from these parts for the best part of a decade now as his 10 Royal Ascot winners are stuffed between Heighlin's Ascot Handicap victory of 1980 and Line Engaged in the Norfolk Stakes 10 years later.

It seemed that Persian Punch was about to restore the status quo 12 months ago, when he was also favourite for the Gold Cup, but he got upset by the neighbours and thrashed around in the stalls as others around him became agitated. The energy he had left allowed him to finish tailed-off 12th of 13.

This year, Persian Punch has worked up a sweat after the stalls have opened and has established himself as the best stayer around. His trainer fears only Clerkenwell, who is steep-

ing up in distance today, in the 17-strong field, the largest for a Gold Cup this century.

"Persian Punch is in good form and looks like he could win it on what he's achieved this year," Elsworth says. "He's run over the distance, in the Prix du Cadran (French Gold Cup), and he was beaten a neck and three-quarters of a length, after making all the running. So he certainly stays the distance."

"And if you consult the form book it will tell you that he was second to Oscar Schneider in the Irish Leger - and that one went on to be fourth in the Arc."

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Persian Punch
(Royal Ascot 3.45)
NB: Zomaradah
(Royal Ascot 2.30)

"He has a relentless, extravagant stride, which is deceiving because he's not short of speed. So though he's a massive horse he's not a plodder." This Elsworth price will not be a bargain today but PERSIAN PUNCH (nap 3.45) should win. In the opening event, Bahr, the Oaks runner-up, is another favourite that may succeed, but Epsom horses often run badly here and more rewarding odds will be available about Zomaradah (next best 2.30).

Luca Cumani's filly, the Italian Oaks winner, is one of just two three-year-olds in training owned by Sheikh Mohammed Othman Al Maktoum. The other is High-Rise, the Derby winner, which just shows where the celestial digit was pointing at the outset of this flat season. The good Sheikh is currently the most popular figure in the game among the Fourth Estate, which some have connected to the fact that he left a few bottles of Ruinart in the press room on the meeting's first day.

If the poor artisans of the media want to continue the habit today they should support Speedy James (3.05), whose form was made to look most shiny by Bint Allay's victory yesterday.



Walter Swinburn steering Exclusive to victory in yesterday's Coronation Stakes leaving Frankie Dettori and La Nuit Rose, eventually fifth, trailing

Treble lifts Stoute's Knight-life

By GREG WOOD

QUITE a lot has happened to Walter Swinburn since his last Royal Ascot in 1995. After a fall at Sha Tin in early 1996, he did not so much flirt with death as cancel the wedding when the invitations were already in the post. Twelve months ago, he was in the middle of a "sabbatical" to overcome weight problems which many assumed to be permanent.

Yet Swinburn was born with a racing brain and blessed with natural luck in running, and both have survived the challenges of recent years. In the Coronation Stakes here yesterday, he needed a touch of good fortune to find a run for Exclusive as they turned into the straight tight against the

rail. Once the running room had appeared, however, no further luck was required, as Swinburn delivered a typically composed challenge to beat Zalaiyika, the 5-4 favourite, by a length and a half.

This was Sir Michael Stoute's first winner since he all had to start calling him "Sir" last weekend, so this latest Group One success seemed only fitting given his newly elevated status. It was also his third Coronation Stakes, following the victories of Sonic Lady and Milligram in the 1980s, and after a somewhat slow start this year, Exclusive could yet prove to be the equal of "She"

plenty quick enough for her," Stoute said. "I felt after the Guinness mile that she would stay a mile and a quarter and she has plenty of big entries over both those distances, including the Eclipse."

The double-edged compliment which attached itself to Swinburn's log ago was that he was the best big-race jockey in the business, and his ride on Exclusive yesterday was faultless.

"In the final furling I knew I had the race won, whereas when I rode her before in the Guinness, she felt like a big, raw, weak filly," he said. "Royal Ascot really is a special occasion, the highlight of the year, and every race is like a Group One."

This may explain why Swinburn continued to ride with im-

mense determination throughout the afternoon, eventually completing a treble for Stoute with wins on Maridour (Queen's Vase) and Greek Palace (Bessborough Handicap).

Maridour was a particularly convenient winner for the trainer, given that Zalaiyika, the French-trained runner-up to Exclusive, was attempting to give the Aga Khan his first Royal Ascot winner for 12 years. Thanks to Maridour, this was a privilege which Stoute kept for himself.

Stoute's record at the Royal meeting now includes 33 winners. That of James Eustace extends no further than one, but it arrived in the Royal Hunt Cup yesterday and the trainer was duly overwhelmed with delight.

Refuse To Lose, who led on the stands side from the open-

ing strides, beat off every challenge, although that of Fly To The Stars, the 6-1 favourite who was giving him two stones, proved particularly stern, for which the top weight deserves enormous credit.

"It's wonderful for a small yard like ours with just 23 horses," Eustace said. "I thought he might be the sort of horse for the Hunt Cup when he was running so well on the all-weather back in February, but 10 days ago I did not even think he would get into the race, let alone about 15 horses above him in the weights to come out."

Victory for Fly To The Stars would have completed an excellent day for punters, although on account of his name alone, Refuse To Lose was surely popular with the once-a-year racegoers.

There were winning favourites in the first two races, however, as Bint Allay took the Queen Mary for Mick Channon - "this is just like football really, you have to be able to do it on the day" - and Diktat the Jersey Stakes for David Loder.

Diktat's path to better things is mapped out every bit as clearly as the straight seven-furlongs he travelled to win the Jersey. The Sussex Stakes at Goodwood and the Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville are the options which David Loder has in mind, with the latter a narrow favourite.

Loder will be based in France full-time from next year, when he takes charge of the Godolphin operations two-year-olds. It may be that he will want to give the locals an early idea of what they are up against.

ROYAL ASCOT

HYPERION	
2.30 Bahr	4.20 Kahal (nb)
3.05 Shear Viking	5.05 Posta Vecchia
4.55 WINDSOR CASTLE (nap)	5.30 Carry The Flag

GOING: Good to Soft. STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. FAVOURITE: Bahr. FAVOURITE: Posta Vecchia. FAVOURITE: Carry The Flag.

RIBBLEDALE STAKES (GROUP 2) (CLASS A) BBC1	
2.30	2120m 1200gns 3YO fillies 1m 4f Pen Value £71,160

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28/WORLD CUP

Nigeria show way ahead for the smaller nations

THERE IS a democratic feel to this World Cup. Japan, Iran, Morocco, Saudi Arabia – all the so-called lesser nations have shown what is possible even against the best teams. It says a great deal about how they have managed to play catch-up by introducing foreign coaches, by the experience their better players have gained in the top European leagues and by raising their fitness levels.

However, we should not kid ourselves that there is no longer a big gap between the very best and those now stating their case from unlikely quarters. We saw it on Tuesday night when Brazil easily dismissed a Moroccan side that had surprised many people with the freedom and expression they were able to bring to their opening encounter with Norway.

RAY
WILKINS

No matter how much the smaller nations have progressed, however much their coach, Henri Michel, gets them organised, Morocco would still step on to the pitch with Brazil harbouring an inferiority complex.

When the early goal goes in, that feeling is doubled. It was also interesting that Moustafa Hadji, who had been so influential against Norway, found it very difficult to find space. The Brazilians singled him out for special attention and his involvement was limited.

I thought the Japanese put up a decent show against Argentina and made it tough for the side who are many people's favourites to lift the trophy. The South Americans did not sparkle as they were hoping to, but I would prefer to praise the opposition rather than look at any Argentinian shortcomings. The Japanese are a great example of how a strengthened domestic league can benefit the national team. Brazil have both their captain, Dunga, and Cesar Sampaio operating in the J-League.

The one side who are the benchmark for all these third division nations would be Nigeria, who can call on players all earning a wage in the top European leagues and who performed so splendidly to defeat Spain 3-2. The Nigerians can run all day and what is so refreshing about them is that they are always looking to get forward. They keep blasting away and blasting away and you feel they must eventually blow themselves up, but there they are, blasting away some more.

I especially like the midfielder Sunday Olsch, who cracked his side's superb winning goal against Spain, a similar effort to the one I saw him score in the Makita tournament at Goodison Park at the start of last season. I would like to see Nigeria go a long way in this tournament, but I worry about them defensively. The goalkeeper, Peter Rufai, gives me the collywobbles from time to time and he needs to show that he is as secure on crosses as he is as a shot-stopper.

There is still a great deal for the smaller nations to do before they can be considered likely winners of a World Cup. The improvements can take you so far but at the very top you do need someone with that little extra to unlock defences or score the goals that will make the difference in a tight encounter.

It's great for the tournament that these countries can compete so well, but having said that it does still concern me that a World Cup which is boasting 32 finalists for the first time can still find no room for Portugal, the Czech Republic or the

Ukraine. They were forced to try and book their place in the finals from extremely difficult qualifying groups, while others came through groups where there were only three sides taking part.

I won't be truly happy that we have a World Cup with the best in the world until we have qualifying groups that do away with continental boundaries. In these days of easy travel there is no reason why it cannot be done. Not that long ago, we saw Faustino Asprilla flying home to South America for a mid-week international and returning to England in time to play for Newcastle on a Saturday. It happens all the time with the Brazilians who play in Europe.

Brazil looked very impressive against Morocco. It was their all-

round strength that caught the eye this time. Ronaldo showed his character by shrugging off an extremely nasty knock and the full-backs were an inspiration from an attacking sense. It was great to see Roberto Carlos knocking 75-yard passes from left to right for the other full-back, Cafu. They are defenders who make things happen and that is important.

However, let the last word today be for Scotland, who really gave their all against Norway and were unfortunate not to take all three points. Assuming that Brazil beat the Norwegians, a Scotland victory over Morocco will put them through into the second round, so let's hope the Africans are feeling a little bit demoralised after conceding those three goals.

Asprilla maverick who went too far

Colombia's talisman has potentially made the most serious mistake of his chequered career. By Trevor Haylett

FOR ALL the colourful exuberance that the Colombians bring to any football gathering, a dark and menacing shadow is never far away. In that sense Faustino Asprilla is a model representative for his South American country, and no one familiar with a temperament that is seemingly always on the point of explosion will be surprised at events which have led to his expulsion from the World Cup stage.

It could well be that his dismissal from the Colombian squad after expressing dismay at the decision of Hernan Dario Gomez to substitute him in the opening game against Romania works to England's advantage in their attempt to finish as winners of the group.

Yet with Asprilla's departure from France towards a future unknown – and, because it is Colombia, an immediate future that has worrying possible repercussions – goes some of the electricity that helps make this four-yearly event the brightest sporting spectacle of them all.

Asprilla will provoke argument wherever the game is up for discussion because he is capable of much more than most players can achieve. It would not be possible to display those skills if they were not protected by a swaggering confidence. With the former Newcastle striker, that arrogance manifests itself in many ways.

On Tuesday it was revealed in his inclination to voice his frustrations and to accuse the coach of favouritism without a moment's thought to the possible consequences of his outburst into a radio microphone. It was to his and the competition's disadvantage that Gomez was not prepared to grant those grievances a fair hearing.

"If you don't obey the rules, you're out," said the coach. "We can't have that type of criticism. It's upset me that this has happened." It is important when considering the consequences of both Asprilla's attack and the decision to send him packing, that full recognition is given to a Colombian football history which

carries a tragic reminder of the high stakes that are involved every time the national side takes to the field.

In 1994, when Andres Escobar's own goal against the United States ensured an early departure from a World Cup that was supposed to promote their emergence as a serious footballing force, the revenge perpetrated by those who had wagered huge sums on a Colombian triumph was to have the defender executed, outside a nightclub.

Those same evil elements were lurking around Asprilla when, on a visit home from Italy, he was arrested for waving a shotgun in a bar in his home town. They surfaced again in the build-up to France when death threats were made against Gomez after his squad selection.

It is his irresistible attraction for controversy which made Asprilla such a perverse acquisition for Kevin Keegan at Newcastle at a time when they appeared uncatchable in the Premiership. A new, temperamental and, crucially, non-English speaking, addition was always likely to threaten that ascendancy, no matter that the player arrived from Parma with a £7.5m valuation.

When the Newcastle dream began to die and Keegan departed, it seemed unlikely that Asprilla and Kenny Dalglish could find common ground to suit the interests of team and player. A stunning hat-trick against Barcelona in their opening Champions' League fixture ensured him a place in George's hearts forever but Dalglish could not tolerate his characteristically laconic approach and an offer from Parma to take him back was impossible to refuse.

It was another reminder to Asprilla that teams can get along without him; that for all his undoubted brilliance another player can come in to take his place and the team might be healthier as a result.

Nobody can now take his place in this World Cup, but Carlos Valderrama will not be alone in the Colombian camp in stressing that his departure will only strengthen team morale.



Faustino Asprilla is on his way home after upsetting Colombia's coach

Empics

Kluivert's insult claim

THE DUTCH striker Patrick Kluivert, who was banned for two World Cup matches for striking Lorenzo Staelens, said he lost control when the Belgian defender called him "a racist".

Kluivert, cleared of rape charges two months ago, was shown the red card after he hit Staelens 10 minutes before the end of the 0-0 draw between the Netherlands and Belgium on Saturday.

"Staelens called me a racist," the striker told the Dutch newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad*, breaking his four-day silence over the incident. Kluivert said he could cope with racist abuse: "I am used to that on

the football field. It doesn't hurt any more. But when I heard that [rapist], I just couldn't keep it in."

"I am not ashamed of what I said to him," Kluivert added. "He reminded me on the field, in a very painful way, of something that happened in the past in my private life."

A 20-year-old Dutchwoman, Mariëtte Boon, brought charges against Kluivert in June last year, accusing the footballer and three of his friends of raping her at his home in Amsterdam after a night out. The court of appeal in Amsterdam threw the case out in February, ruling that there was insufficient evidence.

Sepp Blatter, the president of

world football's ruling body, Fifa, is confident that Sunday's fixture between the United States and Iran will take place, despite reported threats from the Iranians yesterday that they are considering pulling out of France 98 following the screening on French television of an American film seen as projecting a negative image of Iran.

"We will, I'm sure, see that people can go out on the field of play and shake hands, even if their governments do not get along," Blatter said. He added that groups of Iranian exiles have threatened to disrupt the match and that extra security precautions are being taken.



DIARY

HUNDREDS OF youths went on the rampage at a detention centre in north-east Thailand on Tuesday after officials prevented them from watching a World Cup match on television. About 400 teenagers smashed furniture, television sets and windows at the Nakorn Ratchasima detention centre, about 150 miles from Bangkok, when guards ordered them to turn off their sets at the start of the Brazil against Morocco game. At least three people were injured in four hours of battles that followed as guards and 200 riot police tried to restore order. "The protest leader said the guards punched his face after he refused to switch off the television," a police major, Witaya Thonglo, said. The violence eventually ended after local reporters intervened to mediate between the two sides and report the youths' grievances.

FRANKIE HEJDUK decided drastic action was needed if the United States were to beat Germany on Monday, so he put his shorts on back to front. The ruse followed the custom of baseball players who often wear their caps backwards when trying to make a comeback. "I didn't work, though," the American wing-back, who came on as a substitute during the 2-0 defeat, said. "That'll be the last time I try that trick."

MOST HOTEL owners in France would love to play host to one of the 32 World Cup teams. But at the luxurious La Reserve resort in the south-western town of Albi, the

hotel's director, Helene Hjos-Rieux, fears the Romanian squad are costing her money. Security is so tight that diners are staying away in droves from the resort's restaurant, which has a single Michelin star. "Although the team has taken over all 25 rooms, the restaurant is still open. But no one is coming because they think it's closed," she complained. "There are guards at the entrance to stop people from coming in, so anyone who wants to eat has to reserve in advance so the security personnel know who they are. I have had to send some of the waiters on holiday because it's not worth having them hanging around here."

SUNDAY, WHICH is the date of the highly charged Group F tie between the United States and Iran, has been chosen as Fifa's second World Fair Play Day. "Believe me, it's just a coincidence," insisted the governing body's communications director, Keith Cooper.

PRINCE TAKAMADA, the son of the Japanese emperor, played in a training match at Japan's World Cup camp on Tuesday after he and Princess Hisako dropped in for a royal visit. Asked if he was looking to draft His Imperial Highness, the patron of the Japan Football Association, into the team for the crucial Group H match against Croatia in Nantes on Saturday, the coach, Takeshi Okada, diplomatically replied: "I'll think about it."

RUPERT METCALF

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"What might happen around the stadium is not really my problem. But I hope we will meet a team of gentlemen on the pitch." *Anghel Iordanescu, Romanian coach, on England and their hooligan fans.*

"His injury is completely healed, and I think the problem is somewhere in his head. There's some sort of brake in there somewhere." *Yugoslavia assistant coach Vujadin Boskov on striker Dejan Savicevic, who has been suffering from a knee injury and missed his country's first game.*

"The Norwegian coach has been saying some things about our team. That makes us more determined." *Roberto Carlos, Brazil wing-back, promising that his team will not take it easy in their final first-round match against Norway.*

If we lose now blame it on my denim jacket Denmark favourites

J'ACCUSE! The Saudi Arabia team have had cash and credit cards ripped off from their base in Marqon-Baroeul. The place is, by all accounts, an alcohol-free zone and impenetrable to women, but not immune to the shadowy criminal fraternity. The police are pursuing inquiries. But what I really want to know is this: who pinched my denim jacket at St-Raphael station?

While the British government is very decently looking into compensating Marseilles for all the damage done to the city (which is fine, always providing we go halves with the Tunisian government), maybe the French government could start looking into compensating me for my denim jacket. I should stress that we are not talking just any denim jacket here. This is a genuine Paul Smith, faded with lining. Apart from anything else, if the temperature drops, I'm done for. Plus there was a sentimental attachment. That

ANDY
MARTIN
AT LARGE IN
FRANCE

jacket has been everywhere with me. In fact, I would call it my lucky jacket, because while I've been wearing it England haven't lost a game in this contest. Now anything could happen. I admit that I had already lost my address book in Paris (sorry to anyone expecting a call or a postcard). And, in fairness, that may have been down to sheer personal negligence. I don't see ruthless address-book gangs roaming the boulevards. I'm not asking for compensation for

all those missing addresses. But – and this is a big but – that denim jacket was targeted. Some low-life had his eye on it. And I only had to take mine off it for an instant at the station in St-Raphael and it was gone. The perfect crime.

So it was that in the lovely city of Montpellier, where I had been planning to visit the university campus, I went instead to see the "forces of order" as they have become known during the World Cup. After my

showdown with the riot police in Marseilles, not to mention the dust-up with the waiter in St-Tropez (my conscience is clear on this, he started it), I had to steel myself to venture in. I didn't know if they might have my picture on file with the caption "fauteur de troubles" under it. I knew for sure they had my *fiche* from the Hotel de la Gare. I hadn't had to fill out one of these police forms at a hotel since the Day of the Jackal era.

"The police, they insist," said the woman at reception, showing me an insistent notice from the police. "The man before you, he was English. From Wolverhampton." She pronounced Wolverhampton as if it were Pentonville or Parkhurst High Security Wing. "He had two enormous black eyes. He didn't fill in profession." He didn't need to. He had "hooligan" written all over him.

She eyed my passport. "Hah!" she exclaimed. "You are English too! And were you in Marseilles?" The net was

tightening. By 11 a.m. there had been 294 crimes in Montpellier. I know because they gave me a ticket with that number on and asked me to wait with it till my number came up.

Over the next hour or so, the forces of order passed by having conversations in which the phrase "after the match" came up a lot. One *flic* came flying out of the interview room showing off a ticket to last night's Italy-Cameroon game.

I now had a fair idea how to get myself off the hook if it came to the crunch. I finally tracked down a M. Aquilina at the commissariat, who couldn't speak of events that had taken place in St-Raphael or anywhere other than Montpellier. "OK, then," I said. "What has been the impact on crime of the World Cup in Montpellier?" "None," he replied. "Zero. There has been no impact."

"How do you account for the dozen or so guys in camouflage kit and brandishing automatic weapons

at the station then?" "That is why there has been no impact."

I came across the mayor, Georges Frêche, playing in a "baby-foot" (table-football) tournament on the Esplanade. "This is a little boring," he said. "Maybe we need some England fans to liven things up." I introduced myself. "Don't get me wrong," he said. "I am very fond of the English. I have not forgotten Churchill. Let's not get Marseilles out of proportion."

I told him about my missing denim jacket. Since he is a professor of Roman law when he is not being mayor, I duly reached for my pen and notebook, which were in my back pocket, to take it down as he said something along the lines that, alas, there were villains everywhere. But the pen and the notebook had gone. The World Cup thieves had struck again. It was lucky they hadn't taken my denim jeans as well while they were at it.

OVER-CONFIDENCE is the main danger facing Denmark before their second Group C match against South Africa in Toulouse today.

South Africa were overcome by nerves during their 3-0 defeat by France and showed little to worry the more experienced Danes.

South Africa's coach, Philippe Troussier, has promised to send out a much tougher, more organised side, but the Danes, who have complained of tiredness, are not concerned. "We're facing a South Africa who have to go out and win, so the game will be played our way, on the counter-attack. I think we will get enough goals to win the game," the forward Brian Laudrup said.

South Africa's reserve goalkeeper, Paul Evans, has flown home after damaging knee ligaments in training and has been replaced by Simon Gopane of Bloemfontein Celtic.

Blatter waves red card at referees

The clampdown on foul play has so far failed to materialise. Instead, confusion reigns on the pitch. By Glenn Moore

PAUL DURKIN was only 10 yards away, but he was powerless to act. Instead he had to keep a diplomatic silence and settle for calming down an understandably irate Mario Zagallo.

This was Tuesday night in the Stade de la Beaujoire and the Brazilian manager was fuming because Ronaldo was lying in a crumpled heap on the turf. Said Chiba, of Morocco, who had planted his studs into Ronaldo's groin, was walking quietly away.

Durkin, England's World Cup referee, was present as the fourth official and he must have been staggered when Nikolai Levnikov, the Russian referee, failed even to issue a yellow card for an assault which could have merited red.

Levnikov's restraint was typical of the first week's unexpected refereeing leniency and yesterday Sepp Blatter, the newly inaugurated president of Fifa and the man behind the anticipated crackdown, made his second criticism of the men in black this week.

"So far there has only been only one sending-off relating to the new rule," he said. "Just in the two matches on Tuesday there were two tackles from behind [punished by bookings] and one attack on a famous player which should have been punished [with a red card]."

Blatter added that the rules demanding that tackles from behind should result in a red card had been fully ratified and referees been instructed to follow it.

"A Fifa study showed that 60 per cent of injuries suffered by players are ankle or Achilles injuries which usually result from tackles from behind," he said. "Marco van Basten had to end his career when he was only 28 or 29 because he had been the victim of too many violent tackles. We don't want to see such a thing happen again."

Blatter's comments have been echoed by Aimé Jacquet, the French

coach, though the England view is that the refereeing has been much better than expected. It has certainly been very different from the plethora of red and yellow cards predicted. Before yesterday's matches there had been 62 bookings and three red cards in 18 matches, about the Premiership average.

Of the dismissals Anatoli Nankov of Bulgaria received two yellow cards (the second of which could have been a red) against Paraguay; the Netherlands' Patrick Kluyvert was harshly sent off for pushing Lorenzo Stalens of Belgium in his chest with his elbow; and Ha Seok-ju of South Korea got a red for a terrible tackle from behind against Mexico.

Many other players have gone unpunished. The issuing of cards apart, the overall standard of decision-making has been good, though Scotland, denied penalties against Brazil (Dunga's last-minute handball) and Norway (the foul on Gordon Durie was in the box) might disagree. Yet defenders are getting away with a lot. Alan Shearer was continually kicked, held and pushed against Tunisia, whose three yellow cards were only reluctantly given out.

England's defenders, being defenders, unsurprisingly approve of the way things have gone. Teddy Sheringham, being on the receiving end, has a more balanced view.

"Paul Durkin put the fear of God into us when he refereed us at Bisham before the tournament," Sheringham said. "He told us how the refs would be really strict, but since the start of tournament the refereeing has been very lenient. The Tunisians got away with quite a lot, there were silly fouls when people were dragged back and you thought it would be a booking and it wasn't."

"I think the fear factor has made it a better World Cup tournament so far, the fact that players think they can get sent off for something



Brazil's Ronaldo (right) looks at the damage to his thigh after a challenge during the match against Morocco

AFP

silly is there, though we've not actually seen it."

This is probably true but, as the finals progress, matches become more important and defenders think they can get away with it, that self-restraint will cease. A stronger implementation of the rule is required.

But Fifa also has to reform. Kluyvert was foolish against Belgium, but he did not deserve to be sent off. It was a gentle push with his elbow, not a jaw-breaking assault. He has now been suspended for two games. Stalens, who went down as if pole-axed clutching his face, a foot high-

er than the point of impact, should have been suspended instead. Since every match is being beamed around the world with slow-motion replays, ignoring the video evidence just makes Fifa look ridiculous. Durkin, meanwhile, finally gets into action next Tuesday, at the

Stade de France, when Italy play Austria. It could be a critical match in Group B. Like the players, his progress in the tournament will be in the balance. Unlike them, there is a danger that he will go into the match unsure what is expected of him.

France wary of a Saudi booby trap

SHAKESPEARE HAD it about right in Henry V: first, the capacity for the English to behave badly while touring abroad; second, the ability of the French to move instantly between despair and bombast and back again - although, in the tabloid age, this has equally become an English characteristic.

Last week the French media turned the Domaine de Montjoie (the domain of the joyous mountain), headquarters of the French squad, into a kind of Château Despair. This week, after a simple victory 3-0 over a disappointing South Africa, some of the French journalists at the Centre Technique National du Football here are radiating a sense of high expectation; of qualification for the last 16 virtually assured; of an excellent French squad guaranteed to go far in the French World Cup.

Through all this, Aimé Jacquet, remains calm, undemonstrative, even mildly depressive. The manager of the France squad is a most un-French Frenchman: this is perhaps why the nation, and the nation's media most of all, have refused to warm to him. On the eve of tonight's game against the tough, but limited, Saudis in Group C, Jacquet, tall, slight, grey, priest-like and older than his 56 years refused to take anything for granted. Yes, a victory would almost certainly assure France of a place in the next round. No, the Saudis have little that should scare the French.

But "attention" Jacquet warned: this is a typical "match piège" or booby-trap match: the kind of match designed to give pride to a fall. The French team - he refused to discuss it but almost certainly the same 11 - will finish against South Africa - would play with "confidence but also with caution", he said. In other words, do not expect a feast of goals

Coach Aimé Jacquet will maintain his cautious approach despite an impressive start. By John Lichfield in Clarefontaine

and then insult the team - and me - again if you do not get them.

The French media demand not only victory but victory with style. In a sense, this is an admirable approach. But it is not one which fits easily with the character of Jacquet who, spiritually at least, should be the manager of a Yorkshire side in the Nationwide Third Division. His teams tend to play as he speaks: with great precision but without flamboyance; never ducking a challenge, but never elaborating.

What did he expect from his team for tonight's game? He wanted, he said, "more imagination in certain phases of play" but most of all he would be looking for the "principal, indispensable qualities" for success - "effort, effort and more effort".

The great remaining concern of French fans and French journalists remains goalscoring. The first-choice defence - Lilian Thuram, Marcel Desailly, Laurent Blanc,

Bixente Lizarazu - is unbeaten in its last four outings.

The midfield has an embarrassment of choice. Zinedine Zidane, Didier Deschamps, Emmanuel Petit are the men in possession but Christian Karembeu and Patrick Vieira would be the strengthen the heart of many of the 31 other teams.

Up front, despite the three goals against South Africa, the French remain far from terrifying. Two of the goals in Marseille were own goals (one later awarded to Thierry Henry). The other was scored by Christophe Dugarry, the man the French media love to hate. Dugarry, once a prolific scorer for Bordeaux, had disastrous seasons with Milan and Barcelona before making a low-key return to Marseille.

Before the South Africa game he had scored two goals in 21 matches over four years for France, a dismal toll for any striker. Jacquet's persistence in picking him, ahead of sup-

Arrests in ticket probe

THE MANAGING director of the French affiliate of Fifa's official marketing partner faces legal investigation for his possible involvement in a World Cup ticket fraud, judicial sources said yesterday.

Marc Loison of ISL France and a consultant working for his company, Gilles Favard, were remanded in custody to appear soon before a Paris judge who could decide to charge them, the sources added.

The Swiss-based ISL Worldwide,

which markets all Fifa events including the World Cup, denied any wrongdoing, saying ISL France was an independent company in which it only had a minority, non-executive, shareholding.

Favard was arrested on Tuesday at his home in Rueil-Malmaison, just outside Paris, where officers found a large sum of money and 100 World Cup tickets. ISL Worldwide said it was considering legal action against its French affiliate.



Media focus: Bixente Lizarazu

posedly more inspired and younger players, such as Nicolas Anelka and David Trézéguet, is the main source of contention with the press.

It is typical of Jacquet, they say, to persist with a failed, hard-working player like Dugarry while excluding the talents of David Ginola and, before him, Eric Cantona. Dugarry's furious, media-directed joy at scoring, after coming on as a sub, was one of the highlights of the South African game.

He is likely to start tonight. Stéphane Guivarch and Trézéguet have only just recovered from slight injuries. This has not prevented Trézéguet - the 20-year-old who scored the thunderbolt goal for Monaco which put Manchester United out of the European Cup - from complaining to the media that he should be in the starting line-up.

Challenged to comment yesterday Jacquet risked raising the spirits of the international footballing dead. "Talk is all very well," he said. "But players must deliver on the pitch. We've had a lot of cases like that. People who speak a great deal off the pitch but on the pitch, in international games, don't do very much." Who can he have been thinking of? Here are some clues. One is appearing in shampoo commercials and commenting on matches for TV; the other is about to appear in a movie co-starring with a monkey.

Saint insufferable as Scots go to wire

WHILE THE events in Marseilles will only serve to increase Scotland's desire for independence from English England - was Hadrian's Wall actually built to protect them from us? - progress through to the second round for the first time remains a more immediate priority.

Act Two of their latest drama was all ITV's, as they had both Scotland's game against Norway and Brazil playing Morocco. But their executives should have known that Scotland, as in the past, will always extend their agony to the final moments of the last game, and now BBC have been handed that grand finale for next Tuesday evening.

However the likelihood that ITV were merely setting up a big audience for the opposition, didn't prevent them giving the game in Bordeaux the "Full Metal Jacket" treatment, bringing in Alex Ferguson who was acting national manager in 1986. On that occasion a goalless draw against 10-man Uruguay had finally plunged the dirk into their haggis. "It's this culture we have, to make life difficult for ourselves," Ferguson growled as if remembering that day in Mexico.

Up in the commentary box Brian Moore had been billeted with Ian St John, whose playing career had spanned a perverse period in football history when Scotland had great players - himself, Law, Baxter, Greig, Johnstone - but no World Cup qualification. Now equally perversely a distinctly modest squad was on the threshold of great achievement. Not surprisingly, St John was a bundle of neurotic anxiety throughout, abandoning all pretence to neutrality and chucking just like Janet the housekeeper in Dr Finlay's Casebook. "We need a goal, we are dominating the game!" St John shouted as Scotland poured forward in the first half, having pre-

sumably been reminded by Craig Brown that they were up against a mob of players from the English Premiership.

Moore was keen to nail his sporan to the mast too, but his support for the Scots didn't quite extend to identifying the players. He couldn't tell us who had wasted a great headed chance - it was Christian Dailly - or at one point distinguish between Tommy Boyd the left-back and Gordon Durie a centre-forward. In the second half he made a reference to Scotland's opponents being Denmark. A trip to the French equivalent of "Vision Express" surely beckons.

The moment that all England fans had been waiting for arrived quickly in the second half as a sweeping move saw Norway score with a header by Flo. Moore was on safer territory here because there were two Flos in the Norwegian forward line to choose from. "This is a horror story for Scotland!" St John exclaimed, as though narrating the opening scenes of Macbeth, and indeed the toll and trouble were only just beginning.

"What do you ye think ye are doing, Tommy Boyd?" St John belted as the full-back rolled a pass straight to a red shirt, and his commentary became the equivalent of a touchline rant. "Dailly's just got to get a cross in with his left foot," was

Brazil eager to beat Norway

NORWAY'S HOPES that Brazil will take it easy for their World Cup Group A finale on Tuesday were firmly dashed by the Brazilian wing-back Roberto Carlos yesterday.

Egil Olsen, Norway's coach, had thought that, with Brazil certain to top Scotland's group after Tuesday's 3-0 win over Morocco, they would take their foot off the pedal in Marseilles. "The Brazilian win means that their match against us will no longer be important to the final standings in the group, as they have already won it," he said.

Defeat, though, is the furthest thing from Brazilian minds. In fact, revenge will be their theme after Brazil's 4-2 loss to Norway in a friendly in Oslo last year.

"We're determined to win all three of our first-round matches," Roberto Carlos insisted. "It won't be a friendly match against Norway - it'll be tough because Norway need to win to have any chance of qualifying."

Brazil's other wing-back Cafu feels that this Brazil team are en route to a record fifth World Cup. "We all want desperately to win the Cup and our performance last night demonstrated that," he said.

The Brazilians, though, are aware that they have won nothing yet and that pitfalls could lie ahead. "We still have another five matches to play if we want to win the title," the midfielder Leonardo said.

Brazil's coach, Mario Zagallo, has a selection dilemma going into the match against Norway. With the defensive midfielder Cesar Sampaio suspended, he will be forced to make at least one change. He must also decide whether to give fringe players like Denilson and Edmundo the chance to start, or to keep his first-choice line-up.

Doriva, who replaced Cesar Sampaio in the second half against Morocco, was less than impressive, so Zagallo may now plump for Emerson Ferreira, a late call-up for the injured Romario.

Edmundo looked woefully out of sorts when he came on late in the game, but the match had already been won and much of the urgency had evaporated from Brazil's attacks.

Zagallo would doubtless like to start with Denilson, but he is an attacking player in the mould of Ronaldo and Leonardo. "I don't need to make any quick decisions," he said. "I have a week to decide on whether to reshuffle the team."

One concern for him must be his central defence, where both Aldair and Junior Balano look slow and often awkward.

STAN HEY

VIEW FROM THE ARMCHAIR



another piece of The Saint's tactical advice, and when Dailly obliged he promptly sliced into the Tartan Army. But it all came good in the end thanks to the skills Craig Burley had learned during his 10 years at Chelsea. And it became even better for the Scots later when Brazil stroked past Morocco, though not before Chiba had introduced a new method of stopping Ronaldo entitled "The wedding tackle".

Commentators Clive Tyldesley and Kevin Keegan were able to sleepwalk through the match. "He's come back from the dead," Keegan said about Dunga - that's the Brazilian midfielder player not Keegan's scriptwriter - while one comment evoked the days of Graham Taylor. "One of his strengths is not heading," Keegan observed of a Moroccan. One of Kevin's is not talking.

The two results left Scotland poised for a triumph or a travesty next week. "We are the underdogs," Colin Hendry insisted to Gary Lineker over on the BBC, trying but failing to put all the pressure back on Morocco. Over the next five days the Scots will have nightmares featuring such monsters as Iran, Peru and Costa Rica. Alan Hansen will be donning his black suit but at least he has had the chance to observe the antics of Driss Benzekri. So for once in Scotland's World Cup history the dodgy keeper will be at the other end.

30/WORLD CUP

England: United's playmaker still getting over sadness of being left out as four of his team-mates nurse injuries

Beckham's quiet depth of character

BY GLENN MOORE
in La Baule

EVEN BEING confronted by a journalist in a sarong did not faze David Beckham yesterday, but then he's had rather more important things on his mind recently than imitations of his fashion sense.

Beckham is still coming to terms with the impact - and implications - of his omission from the England team that opened the World Cup on Monday. Having been the only player to start in all eight World Cup qualifying matches, it has dawned on him that he may not play at all in the finals.

"It's crossed my mind that when I played in those games Darren Anderton was not available. Darren is a good player and he did well on Monday. There could be another six games, but if the team keep winning I might not get in."

Beckham, like the other omitted players, was told before training in a team meeting on Saturday. "It was hard," he said. "I tried to hide my disappointment, but it hurt. My stomach turned over and over. It was very difficult to get involved in the training session afterwards."

"I'm still getting over it, but it's not the end of the world. I've been dropped before by Manchester United and they are one of the biggest teams in the world."

"I've spoken to my mum and dad but it's down to me - I could have gone round with my head down and sulked like a few people suggested I would, but I haven't. I'm a determined person anyway, but I've been trying extra hard in training."

"There were consoling words for Beckham from John Gorman, England's assistant

coach, who said: "There is no way he will not be involved. He has too much talent not to be."

"He was very disappointed, but Glenn and I have both spoken to him, he has taken his disappointment on the chin and has got on with it. His attitude has been first class, he's shown an extra edge in training. He wants to play, but he understands the situation."

Talking to Beckham yesterday, it was not entirely clear that he did understand. Having been a regular, he was now a reserve. He had spoken to Hoddle, asked certain questions and been given answers including a promise that he would get his chance. But he was still unsure what he had done wrong.

"I've had a few days to think about it and I'm not sure what went wrong. When I spoke to the manager I was still a bit gutted and he didn't really give me a reason."

It was not because of his failure to score at international level. Nor, he was sure, was it because he spent Friday with his girlfriend, Victoria, or because he was photographed wearing a skirt - actually a sarong; or because Hoddle perceived him, as one journalist suggested, as "someone who needed knocking down".

"Most of the stuff surrounding me is caused by people taking pictures of me and wanting to. Just because I have a famous girlfriend doesn't mean my head is up in the clouds and no one can speak to me."

Indeed, Beckham is high-profile, but Hoddle would surely prefer him to be photographed having dinner with his fiancée than drinking with celebrity mates, eating kebabs at 2am or nightclubbing till

dawn. Like all of Alex Ferguson's young players, Beckham is careful not to let his social life interfere with his football.

His main concern now is overcoming the boredom inherent in a football squad away - and far worse when you are not playing - and keeping match-fit so if he is recalled, against Romania on Monday or later, he can perform. But he is likely to be back at some stage.

Although Anderton appears favourite for the right wing-back position, many pundits expect England to adopt a more adventurous line-up sooner or later, with David Batty making way for Beckham and either Beckham or Anderton playing inside.

He has been told that Sir Geoff Hurst did not make the team until the quarter-finals, but admitted that was more of a surprise than a consolation. He added, though: "The manager has said that most teams finish the tournament with a different team to the one that started."

But he would have loved to have started in Marseille. "It was as hard being on the bench, watching them all sing the national anthem, as when I was first told," he said. "But I still wanted us to win and play well. It's not in me to want the team to play badly. I want us to go all the way."

And that was it except, unusually, he sought out another journalist and said, with quiet emphasis: "You don't know me as a person, so don't start judging me like you have been doing." It underlined that there is more depth to Beckham's personality than his public image suggests. He awaits the chance to prove the same about his football.



David Beckham yesterday: 'I tried to hide my disappointment at being dropped, but it hurt'

Southgate in ankle injury worry

BY ADAM SZRETER
in La Baule

GARETH SOUTHGATE was one of four England players to miss training here yesterday. The Aston Villa captain is thought to have turned his ankle during Tuesday's session at the Complexe Sportif d'Escoublac and is not expected to train again until Saturday. With the next game just two days later, against Romania in Toulouse, Southgate may be struggling to take his place in England's defence.

Teddy Sheringham also missed training with a slight hamstring strain, while Alan Shearer and Tony Adams sat out for the second day running with sore feet.

The assistant coach, John Gorman, said: "Alan's just had little aches and pains. It was a physical game [against Tunisia in Marseille on Monday] and there's no point at this stage in taking any chances."

"They've got a good level of fitness now and I can assure you there's nothing serious whatsoever. It's just a little pain in the foot with the hard ground and the studs digging in. That pitch was very dry, a lot drier than some of the pitches we've been training on."

"Gareth's got a slight foot injury from training yesterday and Teddy's got a little problem with his hamstring. He trained yesterday but there was a bit of tightness after the match the other day, but Teddy will be fine by tomorrow. We'll obviously have to keep an eye on them, and maybe Gareth won't train until Saturday."

Meanwhile, Sheringham has apologised to his club, Manchester United, for his Portuguese night-club antics days before the World Cup squad flew off to France. "I sincerely hope it doesn't affect my future at Old Trafford," he said. "I waited a long time to get to United and I want to play there again next season - and for as long as I can." He apologised to the England camp before their departure for France.

Calderwood injured but Scotland stay optimistic

BY PHIL SHAW
in Avignon

SCOTLAND'S CAUTIOUS optimism over their prospects of a first-ever appearance in the second phase was tempered last night by news that Colin Calderwood, their first-choice right-sided defender, is out of the World Cup because of injury.

Calderwood suffered a broken bone in the back of one hand and dislocated the other during Tuesday's 1-1 draw with Norway. He flew back to London yesterday and will have immediate surgery but is unlikely to resume training for a month.

The rules of the tournament allow for goalkeepers to be replaced, but not outfield players. Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, described Calderwood's departure as a "set-back" but he has ample cover in Matt Elliott and David Weir.

Scotland will also be without Darren Jackson next week, the Celtic utility player having incurred a suspension for his second hooking. Even so, Brown remains satisfied with his team's showing so far, if concerned about the lack of a cutting edge.

The last Scotland forward to score from open play in the finals was Joe Jordan, against the Soviet Union in 1982. "So far we've played well twice but definitely lacked the killer touch," Brown said. "We should have been two up before Norway scored and enjoying a gala day. It's a rarefied atmosphere

at the World Cup. Even our clubs only play in Europe - there's no Brazil or Morocco to contend with. But Brazil and Norway are first and seventh in Fifa's World rankings. It's a measure of our progress that we're disappointed to have taken just a point off them."

Having left behind the hurly-burly of Bordeaux, the Scots regrouped amid the rustic charms of the Rhone Valley yesterday, still wondering how they failed to beat Norway. Yet their superiority has encouraged the heady belief that 1998 could prove a vintage year in their World Cup history.

So many campaigns have withered on the vine that no one, least of all Brown, is taking for granted the win over Morocco that ought to guarantee their advance. But, amazingly, Craig Burley's equaliser in the Stade Lescure, allied to the mauling of Morocco's goal difference by Brazil, has put them in the position where they could go through with two points.

There is another, even more bizarre scenario, whereby Scotland win at St-Etienne and are still eliminated, although that would require a Norwegian triumph over Brazil. With the world champions keen to avenge a 4-2 defeat in Oslo 13 months ago, such an outcome appears improbable.

Meanwhile, Brown has the luxury of six days in which to formulate his plans for the Moroccans. It will be surprising indeed if he does not start with

Burley in central midfield. The Celtic and former Chelsea player who began at wing-back on Tuesday, switched inside when Jackie McNamara took over his role. Brown deployed Burley centrally against Colombia last month, but has been convinced his principal value to the side lay in the wide position.

The duel between the other wing-back, Christian Dailly, and Henning Berg exemplified a surprising disparity between the teams in Bordeaux. Berg's sluggishness in the face of his Derby counterpart's surges suggested Egil Olsen's side may have peaked in their warm-up games.

Norway arrived in France with Europe's best record over the past 18 months. However, as in the United States four years earlier, they had difficulty in asserting a physically punishing game plan in a competitive environment and in searing heat.

Olsen has some excellent individuals at his disposal; Scotland, among others, would love a striker like Tore Andre Flo, who is tall and skilful like Duncan Ferguson but brings none

of the associated problems. But their skills are subjugated to a one-dimensional system based on a route-one game.

Norway, nevertheless, retain an outside chance of going forward. Therein lay one of the anomalies of Bordeaux. Perhaps only the Tartan Army could rejoice in a draw with such gusto. There must have been more than 10,000 Scots in the City. They took delight, against the back-drop of reports about the violence involving England supporters, in demonstrating that consuming the equivalent of the EU lager lake does not preclude mixing fraternally with so-called rival fans.

In the local Sud Ouest newspaper, a story detailing the "singing, drinking and dancing marathon" in which the two sets of supporters indulged took its headline from a comment by a reveller from Edinburgh: "It's not war, it's football." A huge front-page photo of Burley in his moment of glory, grinning toothlessly, underlined the message and the promise of further celebrations for Scotland.

Peroni's Nastro Azzurro.

Italy's Numero Uno Beer.



Nastro Azzurro would like to wish all the teams in the World Cup good fortune and a stylish game. But, we'd like to mention that we know who we want to win. After all, you have to look after Numero Uno.

Peroni's Nastro Azzurro. Italy's Numero Uno Beer.

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"It was exhilarating, but as the evening sun came out and lit up the little ground like a village theatre, Scotland's best may not have been enough. To paraphrase Sir Elton John, the Scots are still standing. But their best chance of winning a match in France may already have gone." "The Scotsman" on Scotland's 1-1 draw with Norway on Tuesday.

"We can't tackle the World Cup. For me it's almost a bit embarrassing. I've been saying to the media around the world that Norway will at least reach the last 16. We've not been good." Rune Bratseth, former Norway captain, writing in "Verdens Gang" newspaper, Oslo.

Compiled by Rupert Metcalf

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لماذا من الاصل

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

YESTERDAY'S AFTERNOON MATCH

Chile 1 Austria 1

GROUP B: STADE GEOFROY-GUICHARD, ST ETIENNE, ATTENDANCE: 30,392

Goal: Salas 70
Yellow cards: 4 (Villarreal, Estay, Salas, Zamorano). **Red cards:** 0
Corners: 3
Offside: 7
Free-kicks (against): 15
Coach: Nelson Acosta

Goal: Vastic 90
Yellow cards: 1 (Schöttl)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 2
Offside: 1
Free-kicks (against): 26
Coach: Herbert Prohaska

Running commentary

2 min: Polster shrewdly angles pass through defence. Chile retrieve situation.
6 min: Salas floats a cross to the centre. Zamorano climbs above defenders. Insufficient heading power.
11 min: Cool, accurate interception on Villarreal by Schöttl.
15 min: Yellow card Villarreal (hard decision after solid tackle on Haas).
21 min: Deep cross from Rojas is well met by Zamorano. Well intentioned header goes solidly wide (representative of game at that stage).
24 min: Yellow card Schöttl (clumsy tackle on Salas).
37 min: Austria's first strong shot, by Haas, crashes into Fuentes.
41 min: Haas forward again, neatly sidesteps defender. Colourful touch in monochrome game.
45 min: Austria bring in Herzog to give more experience to midfield.
47 min: Yellow card Estay.
51 min: Herzog sets up Austria's best move but Polster's cross falls between players. Schöpp not ready for chance. Returns to defend and gets away with ball hitting arm.
52 min: Villarreal's positive, on target shot well deflected by Konzel.
57 min: Yellow card Salas (not retreating at free-kick).
58 min: Salas lucky to get away with kick on Mählich.
61 min: Salas's low centre intercepted by Konzel at feet of Zamorano as Chile threaten.
69 min: Over-the-line controversy as Zamorano heads down Stern's free-kick. Konzel blocks well but Salas follows up. Keeper blocks again. Drags ball a fraction over line.
74 min: Yellow card Zamorano (arguing over offside decision).
87 min: Fingertip save from Zamorano's first-time shot emphasises Chile's superiority.
90 min: Vastic (substitute) picks up ball on edge of area, shoots bender perfectly beyond Iapla for equaliser.

TODAY'S MATCHES

South Africa v Denmark

GROUP C: STADE MUNICIPAL, TOULOUSE, KICK-OFF 16.30 BST

SOUTH AFRICA		DENMARK	
1 VONK	11 ISSA	1 Peter Schmeichel	11 Sørensen
2 Themba Mnguni	12 MASHINGA	2 Michael Schmeichel	12 Sørensen
3 David Nyathi	13 MASHINGA	3 Michael Schmeichel	13 Sørensen
4 William Jackson	14 MASHINGA	4 Jes Høgh	14 Sørensen
5 Mark Fish	15 MASHINGA	5 Jan Heintze	15 Sørensen
6 Philemon Masinga	16 MASHINGA	6 Thomas Heintze	16 Sørensen
7 Oulton Fortune	17 MASHINGA	7 Allan Nielsen	17 Sørensen
8 Alfred Phiri	18 MASHINGA	8 Per Frandsen	18 Sørensen
9 Shabane Mkhalele	19 MASHINGA	9 Miklos Molnar	19 Sørensen
10 John Moshoeu	20 MASHINGA	10 Miklos Molnar	20 Sørensen
11 Helman Mkhalele	21 MASHINGA	11 Brian Laudrup	21 Sørensen
12 Brendan Augustine	22 MASHINGA	12 Sørensen	22 Sørensen
13 Delron Buckley	23 MASHINGA	13 Sørensen	23 Sørensen
14 Jerry Slikhosana	24 MASHINGA	14 Sørensen	24 Sørensen
15 Doctor Khumalo	25 MASHINGA	15 Sørensen	25 Sørensen
16 Bryan Batsy	26 MASHINGA	16 Sørensen	26 Sørensen
17 Benedict McCarthy	27 MASHINGA	17 Sørensen	27 Sørensen
18 Lebogang Morula	28 MASHINGA	18 Sørensen	28 Sørensen
19 Lucas Radebe	29 MASHINGA	19 Sørensen	29 Sørensen
20 Ntshong Mokone	30 MASHINGA	20 Sørensen	30 Sørensen
21 Pierre Issa	31 MASHINGA	21 Sørensen	31 Sørensen
22 Paul Evans	32 MASHINGA	22 Sørensen	32 Sørensen

WEATHER: Some cloud, chance of showers. **TEMPERATURE:** 22C
REFEREE: J J TORO REINDON (COLOMBIA)
TV LIVE: ITV 4.15

TEAM NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA: Striker Benedict McCarthy has pronounced himself fit after recovering from an ankle injury but there are still concerns over whether fellow forward Phil Masinga will start. **DENMARK:** No new injury problems and a full squad to select from. An unchanged line-up possible. **No previous meetings.**

France v Saudi Arabia

GROUP C: STADE DE FRANCE, ST DENIS, PARIS, KICK-OFF 20.00 BST

FRANCE		SAUDI ARABIA	
1 Lizarazu	11 Deshayes	1 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	11 Al-Dhawi
2 Djorkaeff	12 Deshayes	2 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	12 Al-Dhawi
3 Deshayes	13 Deshayes	3 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	13 Al-Dhawi
4 Deshayes	14 Deshayes	4 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	14 Al-Dhawi
5 Deshayes	15 Deshayes	5 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	15 Al-Dhawi
6 Deshayes	16 Deshayes	6 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	16 Al-Dhawi
7 Deshayes	17 Deshayes	7 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	17 Al-Dhawi
8 Deshayes	18 Deshayes	8 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	18 Al-Dhawi
9 Deshayes	19 Deshayes	9 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	19 Al-Dhawi
10 Deshayes	20 Deshayes	10 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	20 Al-Dhawi
11 Deshayes	21 Deshayes	11 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	21 Al-Dhawi
12 Deshayes	22 Deshayes	12 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	22 Al-Dhawi
13 Deshayes	23 Deshayes	13 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	23 Al-Dhawi
14 Deshayes	24 Deshayes	14 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	24 Al-Dhawi
15 Deshayes	25 Deshayes	15 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	25 Al-Dhawi
16 Deshayes	26 Deshayes	16 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	26 Al-Dhawi
17 Deshayes	27 Deshayes	17 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	27 Al-Dhawi
18 Deshayes	28 Deshayes	18 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	28 Al-Dhawi
19 Deshayes	29 Deshayes	19 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	29 Al-Dhawi
20 Deshayes	30 Deshayes	20 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	30 Al-Dhawi
21 Deshayes	31 Deshayes	21 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	31 Al-Dhawi
22 Deshayes	32 Deshayes	22 Mohammed Al-Dhawi	32 Al-Dhawi

WEATHER: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers later. **TEMPERATURE:** 23C
REFEREE: A B CARTER (MEXICO)
TV LIVE: BBC 7.30, HIGHLIGHTS: ITV 11.10

TEAM NEWS

FRANCE: First-choice striker Stéphane Guivarch is still carrying the injury that led to his substitution against South Africa. His replacement, Christophe Dugarry, is likely to start in his place. **SAUDI ARABIA:** No injury problems and likely to field an unchanged starting line-up. **No previous meetings.**

GOALSCORERS

THREE GOALS	TWO GOALS	ONE GOAL
1 Bernard Lama (West Ham)	1 Ronaldo (Brazil)	1 Ronaldo (Brazil)
2 Vincent Candela (Roma)	2 Ronaldo (Brazil)	2 Ronaldo (Brazil)
3 Blaise Nzingue (Bayern Munich)	3 Ronaldo (Brazil)	3 Ronaldo (Brazil)
4 Patrick Vieira (Arsenal)	4 Ronaldo (Brazil)	4 Ronaldo (Brazil)
5 Laurent Blanc (Marseille)	5 Ronaldo (Brazil)	5 Ronaldo (Brazil)
6 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	6 Ronaldo (Brazil)	6 Ronaldo (Brazil)
7 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	7 Ronaldo (Brazil)	7 Ronaldo (Brazil)
8 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	8 Ronaldo (Brazil)	8 Ronaldo (Brazil)
9 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	9 Ronaldo (Brazil)	9 Ronaldo (Brazil)
10 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	10 Ronaldo (Brazil)	10 Ronaldo (Brazil)
11 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	11 Ronaldo (Brazil)	11 Ronaldo (Brazil)
12 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	12 Ronaldo (Brazil)	12 Ronaldo (Brazil)
13 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	13 Ronaldo (Brazil)	13 Ronaldo (Brazil)
14 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	14 Ronaldo (Brazil)	14 Ronaldo (Brazil)
15 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	15 Ronaldo (Brazil)	15 Ronaldo (Brazil)
16 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	16 Ronaldo (Brazil)	16 Ronaldo (Brazil)
17 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	17 Ronaldo (Brazil)	17 Ronaldo (Brazil)
18 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	18 Ronaldo (Brazil)	18 Ronaldo (Brazil)
19 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	19 Ronaldo (Brazil)	19 Ronaldo (Brazil)
20 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	20 Ronaldo (Brazil)	20 Ronaldo (Brazil)
21 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	21 Ronaldo (Brazil)	21 Ronaldo (Brazil)
22 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	22 Ronaldo (Brazil)	22 Ronaldo (Brazil)
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27 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	27 Ronaldo (Brazil)	27 Ronaldo (Brazil)
28 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	28 Ronaldo (Brazil)	28 Ronaldo (Brazil)
29 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	29 Ronaldo (Brazil)	29 Ronaldo (Brazil)
30 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	30 Ronaldo (Brazil)	30 Ronaldo (Brazil)
31 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	31 Ronaldo (Brazil)	31 Ronaldo (Brazil)
32 Youssef El-Arabi (Al-Jazira)	32 Ronaldo (Brazil)	32 Ronaldo (Brazil)

RED AND YELLOW CARDS

RED CARDS	YELLOW CARDS
1 Ronaldo (Brazil)	1 Ronaldo (Brazil)
2 Ronaldo (Brazil)	2 Ronaldo (Brazil)
3 Ronaldo (Brazil)	3 Ronaldo (Brazil)
4 Ronaldo (Brazil)	4 Ronaldo (Brazil)
5 Ronaldo (Brazil)	5 Ronaldo (Brazil)
6 Ronaldo (Brazil)	6 Ronaldo (Brazil)
7 Ronaldo (Brazil)	7 Ronaldo (Brazil)
8 Ronaldo (Brazil)	8 Ronaldo (Brazil)
9 Ronaldo (Brazil)	9 Ronaldo (Brazil)
10 Ronaldo (Brazil)	10 Ronaldo (Brazil)
11 Ronaldo (Brazil)	11 Ronaldo (Brazil)
12 Ronaldo (Brazil)	12 Ronaldo (Brazil)
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29 Ronaldo (Brazil)	29 Ronaldo (Brazil)
30 Ronaldo (Brazil)	30 Ronaldo (Brazil)
31 Ronaldo (Brazil)	31 Ronaldo (Brazil)
32 Ronaldo (Brazil)	32 Ronaldo (Brazil)

TEAM OF THE DAY

100 CLUB: WORLD CUP XI (10 CAPS OR MORE)
Peter Schmeichel (Denmark)
Claudio Suarez (Mexico)
Alfonso Arellano (Mexico)
Hernando Barboza (Mexico)
Luis Hernandez (Mexico)
Michael Laudrup (Denmark)
Cobi Jones (USA)
Carlos Valderrama (Colombia)
George Hagi (Romania)
Jürgen Klinsmann (Germany)
Eric Wynalda (USA)
Almost 100 CLUB SUBS (90-100)
Dafniel (Brazil)
Khalid Al-Murad (Saudi Arabia)
Almoud Al-Murad (Saudi Arabia)
Paolo Maldini (Italy)
Antoni Polster (Austria)

HIGHS AND LOWS

Highest scoring match: Spain 2 Nigeria 3
Lowest scoring match: Paraguay 0 Bulgaria 0
Most goals: 4 min - Cesar Sampaio, Brazil (v Sco)
Latest goals: 90 min - Anton Polster, Austria (v Cam)
90 min - Thierry Henry, France (v S Africa)
90 min - Mica Vastic, Austria (v Chile)
Most cards in a match: S - Paraguay v Bulgaria (1 red, 4 yellow)
S - Chile v USA (5 yellow)
S - Chile v Austria (5 yellow)
Fewest cards in a match: 1 - Morocco v Norway (1 yellow)
Highest Attendance: 80,000 - Brazil v Scotland (St Denis)
Lowest Attendance: 27,650 - Paraguay v Bulgaria (Montpellier)

STATISTICS OF THE DAY

5 THE NUMBER of defeats suffered by Morocco in their last six games in World Cup finals. The odd one out was last week's draw with Norway.
9 THE NUMBER of years that the 19-year-old Yugoslavian striker, Dejan Stankovic, will be tied to the Italian side, Lazio, by his new contract. He will reportedly be paid more than £1m per season.
12 THE NUMBER of clean sheets that Brazil have kept in their last 17 matches in World Cup finals.
22 THE NUMBER of games that Scotland have played so far in eight World Cup finals. They have won just four matches, including one in the last 10.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Group A

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SPORT

BECKHAM HIDES THE HURT P30 • ENGLAND WAIT ON STEWART P27

Chile chilled by fantastic Vastic

By Andrew Longmore
at Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, St Etienne
Chile
Salas 70
Austria
Vastic 90
Att: 30,392

CHILE JUST cannot break their World Cup hoodoo. Within seconds of recording their first victory in the World Cup for 36 years, their first out of their home country since 1950, they conceded an equaliser in injury time to an Austrian side long on determination, desperately short of quality. Austria are the last-gasp specialists. They have now scored twice in injury time, the first to draw against Cameroon in the opening game of Group B, the second earning an equally fortuitous point against the fancied Chileans.

At the final whistle, Nelson Acosta, the Chile coach, stalked off down the tunnel waving a farewell fist to his players, while the Austrians bowed to their fans and breathed a sigh of relief. Out of jail twice in a week. They should have been heading home by now. Chile should be contemplating a place in the second round. But they only have themselves to blame.

For long periods, they dominated the Austrians without managing to find the right final pass at the end of some intricate mid-field patchwork. Just as their army of followers were starting to turn restless, Marcelo Salas - who else? - put them ahead. It was not a goal to match his Wembley beauty but it looked to be equally decisive. Austria, ponderous and workmanlike, had not looked capable of penetrating the Chile defence.

This morning, when they pick up the crumbs of comfort, Chile will still fancy their chances of progressing. Having been deprived of a deserved victory over Italy by poor refereeing, one moment of slackness cost them dear yesterday. As Austria launched one desperate final fling, the substitute Ivica Vastic worked a little time and space on the edge of the penalty area and curled a right-foot shot round the leaping Nelson Tapia and into the far corner of the net. Three quarters of the ground fell silent; the Austrian quarter, morose for most of the second half, sprung to life. Tapia fell to earth and beat the ground in frustration with his forehead. Whether Chile's morale can recover from a second blow is open to question.

A muddled match had exposed their pretensions anyway. The Austrians had done their homework, man-marking both dangermen, Ivan Zamorano and Salas, and posting the



Austria's goalkeeper, Michael Konsel, leaps in a vain attempt to keep out Chile's goal, scored by the partially hidden Marcelo Salas, in yesterday's 1-1 draw

Michael Leach/Reuters

combative Roman Mählich in front of the back three to block Chile's midfield runs. On the left, the wing back, Francisco Rojas, so influential against Italy, was strangely subdued. Without his pace, Salas and Zamorano were forced to forage for themselves, thereby unbalancing the attack and overcrowding the

midfield. Zamorano's gesture of disgust at his midfield on the stroke of half-time summed up the mood.

The stalemate suited the Austrians well, though the coach, Herbert Prohaska, signalled some aggressive intention by bringing on Andreas Herzog and Markus Schopp at half-time. Indeed, Austria could have

taken the lead minutes into the second half had not Schopp's control let him down badly five yards from goal. It was a rare foray. Moments later, Moises Villarroel had a right-foot shot touched round the post by Michael Konsel, who also saved brilliantly from a right foot shot by Zamorano. But with 20 minutes left,

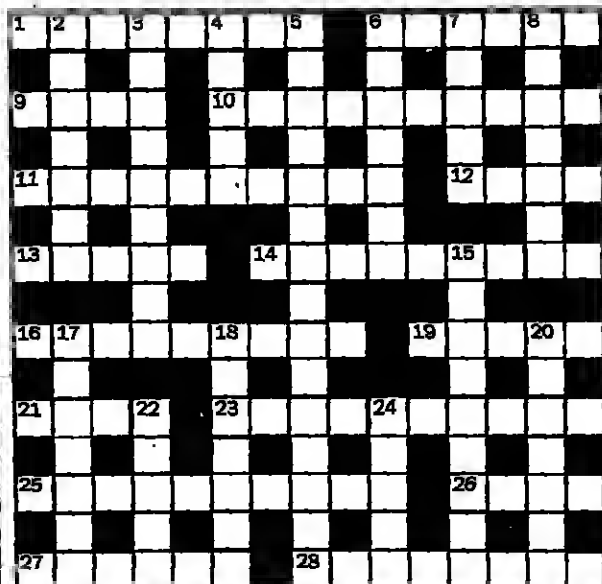
Salas struck. Mählich fouled Clarence Acuña on the byline, Jose Sierra swung in the free-kick, Zamorano leapt above the defence and though Konsel blocked the initial header Salas kneeled the rebound fractionally over the bar. The Chileans claimed the goal immediately amid muted Austrian protest.

CHILE (3-4-1-2): Tapia (Universidad Católica); Reyes (Colo Colo), Fuentes (Universidad de Chile), Murgas (Universidad Católica); Villarroel (Wanderers), Acuña (Universidad de Chile), Parraguez (Universidad Católica), Rojas (Universidad de Chile), Estay (Ibérica), Zamorano (Internazionale), Salas (River Plate). Substitutes: Sierra (Colo Colo) for Estay, 57, Costaceda (Universidad Católica) for Villarroel 66.

AUSTRIA (3-5-1-1): Konsel (Roma); Mählich (Austria Vienna), Schöttel (Rapid Vienna), Fellersinger (Borussia Dortmund), Cerny (1860 Munich), Kuhnauer (Real Sociedad), Mählich (Sturm Graz), Pfisterberger (Werder Bremen), Wed (Rapid Vienna), Haas (Sturm Graz), Postel (Köln). Substitutes: Herzog (Bremen) for Kuhnauer 47, Schopp (Sturm Graz) for Cerny 45, Vastic (Sturm Graz) for Haas 73. Referee: G Ghandour (Egypt).

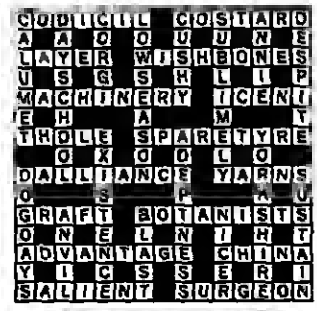
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3646, Thursday 18 June By Spurlin



- ACROSS**
- Alternative to bread with meat in for alfresco meal (8)
 - Auction to include theologian's seat (6)
 - Cards with which one has to pass (4)
 - Opening pleasantries performing a useful service, in the main? (3-7)
 - Take Goliath for instance - his inept forays around Israel (10)
 - Relations mostly retreat (4)
 - Ship's role, to return carrying maiden (5)
 - Her post's relatively problematic (5, 4)
 - Travellers guidebook and one battered trainer found in front of yard (9)
 - Despicable individuals about to infiltrate Special Boat Squadron (5)
 - Wading bird is found around British Isles (4)
 - Opeo-air man exercises dog (10)
 - Storehouse, one involved in repossession saga (10)
 - A prohibition on backing a horse (4)
 - Spotted Dick pinching half of trifle - that's rotten (6)
 - Tattered notice about the French political process (8)
- DOWN**
- Hide in foxhole at heronry (7)
 - Intermediary identified by Military Intelligence stupidly landed without money (9)
 - Idiot crossing motorway is definitely wrong (5)
 - A bloomer lately evident in activity of the yellow press? (7, 8)
 - Well, operating's his thing (7)
 - Produced picture of doctor with beard (5)
 - Peculiar German song stands above the rest (3-4)
 - Rising Assistant Secretary can't set about objective (9)
 - Dramatic scene in which Greek character swallows bleach, abandoning child (7)
 - Came back to find salesman was deceitful (7)
 - Bold manner displayed by brother receiving a very small promotion (7)
 - Clean head of coin in acid (5)
 - About to pen a song, mostly you'll need this (5)

Wednesday's solution



Colombia send Asprilla packing

By Trevor Haylett

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, a mesmerising footballer but a controversial always waiting to happen, is out of the World Cup after he criticised the Colombian coach and was dismissed from the squad.

The former Newcastle striker made a bitter outburst to a radio reporter after he was substituted five minutes from the end of Colombia's opening-game defeat by Romania. He also accused Hernan Dario Gomez of showing favouritism to other players.

The repercussions could have a positive outcome for England who will feel their chances of defeating Colombia in the final game in Group G will be enhanced without the brilliant yet bafflingly inconsistent Asprilla.

The controversial figure, sold back to Italian club Parma last season by Kenny Dalglish, claimed that other players had become "untouchables" and that they had performed worse against Romania than he had. The attack drew an angry response from Gomez who declared that his star player should go home if he was that unhappy.

When the temperamental 28-year-old failed to turn up for yesterday's training session at La Tour Du Pin in eastern France, Gomez said Asprilla's World Cup was over. "We didn't throw him out, the decision was his," said the coach who

was prepared to leave himself a man short in his squad.

"If you don't obey the rules, you're out. We can't have that type of criticism. It's upset me that this has happened."

Gomez has been struggling to inject belief into a party that is still mentally scarred by the execution of the defender Andres Escobar, days after the 1994 team made a surprisingly early return from the World Cup four years ago in the United States.

Their preparations for France were disrupted by internal dispute back home, and with performances en route to the World Cup less than impressive, including a heavy defeat by an uninspiring Belgian side, the omens were not favourable.

They had been banking on Asprilla as one of their best hopes of success in France although St James's Park regulars will confirm his maddeningly inconsistent tendencies. He was a subdued presence against Romania, a fixture that will possibly prove to have been his last ever in the World Cup.

Nevertheless he is a threat that can never be ignored as his record in the qualifying matches underlined - scoring six goals in his first five games - and John Gorman, Glenn Hoddle's assistant did not disagree that it is a boost to England's hopes in the final group game in Lens a week tomorrow. "I am disappointed for him

as some of our lads know him but I am pleased for us," Gorman said. "Asprilla's a very exciting, world-class player, so we are pleased he is not going to be there."

"He gave Germany a lot of problems. You never know what he's going to do. Some of the things he can do are as good as the Brazilians."

"It was a bit of a shock and things like this can't be good for their team spirit. We have a very good atmosphere ourselves, we make an effort to keep the lads who are not in the team very involved."

However, team-mate Carlos Valderrama, apparently the target of Asprilla's criticism of Colombia's tactics, said that they would be strengthened by his departure.

Asked whether Colombia would be weakened Valderrama said: "No, now it gets fortified. When we're all here, we're all necessary. But when we're not here, then we're none of us essential."

Valderrama added that the other players had not got involved in the argument and had not interfered. "We don't butt in. When a player makes a mistake like that, the coach takes a decision," said the 36-year-old veteran of the two previous World Cups.

"Now we're ready and waiting for the match against Tunisia in Montpellier on Monday" spurred by the vision of qualifying for the second round.

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THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Justin Leighton/Network

The new front line

The battle for peace in Northern Ireland is no longer being fought on the streets, but within a police force that must confront its troubled past. One man has been charged with the task of modernising the RUC. If he fails, he may fan the flames of conflict

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK

There are two Royal Ulster Constabularies. The first is the force that describes itself as "quite simply the bulwark between anarchy and order," which has for nearly three decades been in the front line of the battle against the IRA. With its officers daily risking their lives, it has paid a heavy price in the war against terrorism: 300 of its men and women have died violently, with no fewer than 8,000 injured. Many, horribly, have been killed while off-duty, in the presence of their families.

Other forces such as the FBI regard the RUC as one of the most professional police operations in the world, but it also faces a charge sheet drawn up by republicans, nationalists and human rights groups. Efficiency, say the critics, is no substitute

for community acceptability, a police force's most valuable asset; and the force's undoubted sacrifices, they argue, do not exonerate it from blame for its own alleged wrong-doings.

The longevity of Irish memory means that the critics can reel off a list of alleged offences: the "shoot-to-kill" era; the Stalker affair; the Castlereagh interrogation controversy; the use of plastic bullets; the perception that officialdom conspires to cover up its misdeeds: the list is almost endless.

Critics and defenders can, and do, argue the toss about these ad infinitum, but one unarguable reality is the makeup of the force:

it is 92 per cent Protestant, and some of those other eight per cent are Catholics from England. The reasons for the imbalance are hotly debated, but its existence is unquestionable. Its internal ethos is also problematical.

It is beyond question that the RUC has a credibility problem with the nationalist population. For some years its image gradually improved, but then came Drumcree 1996 with its television images of RUC officers in Robocop-style outfits forcing aside local Catholics to allow Orange marchers down Fortadown's Garvaghy Road.

It looked like a repeat and an update, in vivid colour, of the grainy old 1969 pictures of burly RUC men bashing Catholic civil rights marchers in Londonderry. Those original images helped

Turn to page 5



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**EDUCATION &
FAST TRACK**

More Nineties terms of abuse

FROM TIME to time I bring you an update on modern usage, in a continuing glossary of the words of the 1990s, and here is another small selection for your collection. Abuse: Another word for "use", as in "drug abuse". Ambassador: A man who drink vomits and tries to kill policemen, as in "We want our football supporters to be ambassadors for England". Anorak: A rather useful rain garment. Bastion: Something which is always "the last...". Bittersweet: Applied to a film, it tends to mean a happy story with a sad ending or a sad story with a happy ending, but REALLY means "what's left of the author's best intentions after Hollywood has done its worst". Book Reviewer: A man or woman who always has his or



MILES KINGTON

with another selection of useful words for the modern world - and their real meanings

her name in bigger print than the author of the book under review.

Britpop: The musical wing of English Heritage.

Clinical: Based on direct observation of a patient, and therefore heavily involved in practicality (as opposed to work in a laboratory etc).

Also, scientifically detached, objective, etc. The word therefore means EITHER emotionally detached OR directly involved. This may help to explain why it is always used wrongly. Or, of course, correctly.

Dork: See "nerd".

Forensic: Although the dictionary definition of this is "pertaining to a court of law", it has come to have a quite different meaning, i.e. "lots of DNA and blood and semen samples being tested by a police specialist in a white coat, played by that actor, you know, what's his name...".

Honour: Something which we used to develop for ourselves, as in "a sense of honour", but which is now given to us by the Government, from an "honours list".

Incident off the ball: Football term meaning "gratuitous bodily harm".

Infringement: Another football term, meaning "something minor our team has done wrong". If the other team does it, it's called "a blatant foul".

Irony: A way of justifying violence.

Jury system: The democratic process whereby, when twelve good men and true are gathered together, they elect the poshest to be chairman. Link: A mistaken belief among Radio 4 people that you have to find a connection between two items, so that you hear Bragg or Purves saying: "I expect there is a link between Renaissance Art and tight-rope walking, but if there is I can't spot it, so let's go straight on to..." Total waste of time, fellows. Logistics: The art of finding the easiest solution to anything. The opposite of politics. Mindset: Politically correct way of referring to someone's arrogant prejudices. Nerd: See "wally". New Labour: New is the name given to something old to become very old. Think of New York and New Zealand. Or Edinburgh New Town, one of the oldest pieces of town planning still in use. Or the New Testament, very nearly 2,000 years old by now. Thus, it is only a matter of time before someone is referred to as Old New Labour. Confusingly, there is a chain of eating places in England called Old Orleans. Old Orleans is a town in France, famous for its vinegar etc. But they don't mean that - they mean Old New Orleans. Politics: A system in which one side furiously tries to make the other side adopt its ideas, and is then even more furious if it does. Religion: The theory that there is intelligent life in the next world. Science: The theory that, if only we knew everything, it would probably be wrong. Talk to: To try to cut someone down to size, to take the piss out of, as in "Lynn Barber talks to Stephen Fry". Technology: Science that makes money. Tory Party: A loose-knit organisation of Jeffrey Archer's ex-friends. Trainpotter: A man who collects anoraks. Truth: A commodity sought every Monday morning at 9.00am by Melvyn Bragg and his chums on *Start the Week*, who, like Enid Blyton's Famous Five, set out after every weekend to seek the answer to the question: "Why is there a mysterious light shining in yon old deserted pile of philosophy?" but discover that there is no time before 9.45 to discover it, despite which they'll be back at 9.00am next week, eager as puppies. Vermin: Name given by humans to forms of life that are hostile to humans, although it is quite possible that being hostile to humans will turn out to be the very best way to preserve the planet. Wally: See "woos". World Cup '98: Irrefutable proof, at last, that it is possible to stage a major football event without three fat opera singers. Woos: See "dork".



Johnny Jensen, left, puts the finishing touches to a creation for the Royal College of Art fashion and textile graduation show today

David Rose

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

England's shame

Sir: Rather than flying home the England team after the Marseille riots (leading article, 16 June) a more constructive gesture might be for a body such as the Football Supporters Association to co-ordinate an appeal for decent, law-abiding football fans to donate a small sum of money to be sent to Marseille to aid in the clean-up operation. In this way the fans could clearly dissociate themselves from the organised violence and express their sympathy and shame, helping to rebuild bridges between the English and French.

JENNY GILL
Leeds

Sir: Nothing, but nothing excuses the sort of behaviour we have witnessed in the past few days. So let's hear less talk of civil liberties - these hooligans are infringing other peoples' civil liberties.

It's time to stop pussyfooting around and start withdrawing these thugs' passports and enforce their reporting duty to a local police station while these competitions are taking place.

CRIS HENDERSON
Beckenham, Kent

Sir: I completely agree with Suzanne Moore ("Forever In-ger-land" 16 June). Over the last two years I have felt an increasing sense of anger at the acceptance and endorsement of the laddish football culture that has now become middle-class, trendy, acceptable, funny, especially from such TV quiz shows as *They Think It's All Over* with Nick Hancock from the boringly crude language of Lee Hurst to the cripplingly smug, embarrassed grins of Gary Lineker and David Gower and the deeply insulting "if you don't think I'm funny you're a prude" attitude of Rory McGrath - they should all know better.

I have a 14-year-old son and another of 11 and with this kind of humour, which appeals to adolescent boys, being presented by people in their thirties, coupled with the endorsement of TV companies putting their programmes on at prime times, it makes it almost impossible not to sound "old-fashioned" and "boring" to a teenager when things such as behaviour and language are discussed in the family.

GILLIE RUSSELL
Richmond, Surrey

Sir: Rather than deriding the "new football" tendency which has grown over the past few years, Suzanne Moore should applaud it as a genuine attempt by genuine fans to wrest back the game they (we) love.

ANDY PEARSON
Liverpool

Sir: On the morning of Monday 15 June my son, along with some 70 per cent of other 18-year-olds in France, wrote a four-hour essay for the obligatory philosophy paper in the Baccalauréat. The subject was "Comment décider qu'un acte est juste". Simultaneously British youth was burning Tunisian flags and

stomping its way round Marseille. An interesting cameo of cultural difference.

NEIL CALDER
Dionne, France

Sir: Michael Green (letter, 17 June) is on dangerous ground when he says "the British are generally more racially hesitant, and often more blatantly prejudiced, than their neighbours in Europe". He lives in France - a country where an extreme-right party regularly wins up to 20 per cent of the popular vote and in which racist and anti-Semitic attitudes are endemic, as illustrated by the furor over the right of Muslim women to wear the veil and attacks on Jewish cemeteries. Presumably he would not regard the bigots of the Front National as representative of the French nation as a whole: can it then be right to draw general conclusions about the British people from the disgraceful behaviour of a few hundred English thugs?

SIMON ROBSON
Brussels

Sir: Whatever the causes of hooliganism, it cannot be put down to the English psyche (letters, 17 June). If this were the case, why are there no similar scenes during England's rugby and cricket matches?

DES BROWN
Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir: I cannot believe the blanket condemnation of English fans in Marseille. It seems clear that the trouble originated when a car-driven by Tunisians - ran over an England supporter. It was natural and right for the English to retaliate.

The English reputation from the 80s has caused any young drunken males from a different nationality to "have a go". The English have no other choice but to fight back. We should not be ashamed of these people but proud that they are willing to stand their ground and defend themselves and others.

MIKE DEAN
Manchester

Sir: In response to Kathy Wooton (letter, 16 June) I would note that there are 32 countries involved in this competition. Every fan is exposed to the same bar opening hours. They have not all rioted on the street.

JOHN RAMSAY
Glasgow

A grovel in Brussels

Sir: Your Business Outlook article on BA's problems over its proposed alliance with American Airlines (12 June) states that, in dealing with grovel, "the first rule is to grovel, however humiliating the experience". What terrible advice to give! The Brussels bureaucracy is there to serve the Union, but too often is allowed to become the master.

My own experience relates to container shipping, but with similar frustrations. One problem is that there are only a handful of people who matter in the Competition Directorate and they are bound to know more about the competition

rules of the Treaty of Rome than they do about the many industries they are required to deal with. Commission policy continues to be based in part on false premises.

Another problem is that the competition rules need updating. They were devised by the original Six. The present members in the British Isles, Scandinavia, Iberia and Middle Europe are entitled to a voice. The rules were devised over 40 years ago, since when industrial technology has become more complex, favouring mergers to cope with the large scale of investments required. Many industries, including most of the transport sector, have become oligopolistic as a result. The competition rules need to recognise this more clearly than they do.

The key to improvement is to strengthen the democratic process. Governments need to take greater interest in Brussels decisions. At present this inevitably translates into greater activity in the Council of Ministers. The weight needs to be better distributed and the obvious institution to take more of the strain is the European Parliament.

European industries deserve a better system, one that avoids protracted wrangling in Brussels, all too often leading to recourse to the courts. A new democratic order setting out how the competitive interests of suppliers and customers are balanced is too important an issue to be left to a handful of regulators with a 40-year-old brief. European industrialists should stand up tall about the principles of competition. Grovelling will get them nowhere.

MICHAEL GRAHAM
Consultant in Liner, Container and Intermodal Shipping
Tonbridge, Kent

Too much transport

Sir: Your leading article on transport (9 June) ignores the core problem, which is the enormous growth in total movement of both people and goods, by whatever means.

For example, the average item of food travels 50 per cent further from producer to household than it did 10 years ago. Similar changes have occurred in almost every field of production, all represented by increases in lorry mileages. People also travel ever further to work, to shop, and in their leisure. Only a small part of this is because of increases in personal freedoms and choices. Most is the result of planning decisions by planning authorities, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. Time and again the decision has been made that it will be cheaper to close down a factory, shop, school, hospital or distribution depot and let people travel further to a new big central one, usually sited away from public transport.

A sensible transport policy must start by asking not how we move people and goods about, but how we can avoid the need to.

CHRISTOPHER PADLEY
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Sir: Your report (13 June) that a cyclist is 16 times more likely to be killed on Britain's roads than a

motorist, and that the main official recommendation for reducing this figure is to provide cycleways. There seems to be an implication here that the roads are by definition unsafe for cyclists and should be avoided. This is reminiscent of the advice given to women to avoid going out after dark - both suggest an unacceptable resignation to the status quo that leaves those who do not comply more exposed.

More could and should be done. For example, in Holland the law is such that in any accident with a cyclist, a motorist is always held at least partly to blame.

TONY HUNT
Berlin

'Failing' schools

Sir: The Chief Inspector of Schools continues to amaze me with his crass simplifications of profound problems. His most recent claims concerning the widening gap between "failing" and "successful" schools could not be more damaging to the schools concerned ("Poor schools blamed on headteachers", 11 June).

I had been in post only one year when the Ofsted team failed the school of which I was proud to be headteacher. The label of "failing school" set in motion a train of events leading to the widening "gap" to which he refers. Although according to the Ofsted team I had "gained the confidence of students, staff and parents", any confidence they had was taken away at the stroke of a pen. Sixty children, all at the more able end of the academic spectrum, were withdrawn during the following few months. This represented 10 per cent of each year group. Despite this, the school managed a 7 per cent increase in grades A-C at GCSE. The school is still in special measures after more than two years.

Although a number of weaker staff were encouraged to "move on" I was unable to replace them since no teacher wished to move to a school in this position.

After 18 months I myself decided that enough was enough and moved out of the teaching profession in the UK and am now happily teaching in the Republic of Ireland. I prefer to teach in an environment where the teaching profession is respected, trusted and not subjected to campaigns of defamation from those from whom they should get more support.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED
Wexford, Ireland

Dental pain

Sir: Your report on student numbers ("University fees don't deter young", 12 June) only tells half the story. The Government's plans for higher education are already having a dramatic impact on applications to dental schools, with a 12.1 per cent decrease this year.

The British Dental Association (BDA) is very concerned at the potential effects on NHS dentistry. Increased financial burdens on dental students will make it much more difficult for all but the most wealthy students to train as dentists.

It is important that the dental profession reflects society as a whole.

A BDA survey last year found that 90 per cent of newly qualified dentists had debts averaging £9,200 per head. We are concerned that the introduction of tuition fees together with the scrapping of maintenance grants will simply increase the pressure on some areas; it may become even more difficult to find an NHS dentist than it is now. I wonder how the Government will square this with their stated commitment to improving access to NHS dentistry.

JOHN HUNT
Chief Executive
British Dental Association
London W1

Cured by ECT

Sir: Beware a one-sided approach to a subject as vital as medical treatment ("ECT shocks to the health system", 16 June).

Severely clinically depressed, I accepted 10 treatments of electroconvulsive therapy while in the Royal Masonic Hospital, west London, in 1993. The effect was to kick-start the therapeutic action of my anti-depressant drugs, which until then had failed to work. Numerous fellow patients also improved after ECT.

I lost much (but not all) of my memory of the two months I spent in hospital, and my short-term recall is not what it was before the treatment. But I see that as a very fair price to pay for being able to live a normal life and meet my responsibilities towards my family and society.

Scare stories like your feature will deter patients who, as I was, are severely depressed and suicidal from accepting a procedure that really can save a life.

DAVID J BOGGIS
Orpington, Kent

IN BRIEF

Sir: Your article "Choose life, choose the family" (15 June) repeats a common misunderstanding of a recent study that showed that those species of primates in which fathers participate more in childcare have a smaller gap between the life expectancy of males and females.

What must be understood is that the study compared species and not individuals within species. The study did not look at (and so did not find) any evidence that individual males who are more involved in the raising of children have a greater life expectancy.

JEFFREY GOLDBERG
Cransfield, Bedfordshire

Sir: Sir George Martin proclaims that bands who overtly do drugs should be cast out by their record companies. The truth is that in signing a group, there is only one criterion that interests record companies: does that group make money? If they do, then almost any excess is permissible. That is a sign of a far wider and more persistent malaise than drug-taking will ever be.

MAHER M MUGHRABI
Aberdeen

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) remain on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now appear on Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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The faltering economy: cause for concern, but not for panic

INFLATION UP, unemployment up, interest rates up, the pound too high, property prices down. Anyone might think we were in the early rather than the late 1990s, were it not for the World Bank warning that we could be heading for a world wide recession.

Yesterday's jobless figures - only the second increase in five years - should at the very least cause the most hush observers to reconsider their optimism. Coming on top of Tuesday's six-year high inflation figure and weekend reports of a serious downturn in the property market, they mean that the "r word" is now back on economists' lips. The question that must now be asked is whether we are about to enter a recession. Is Rosy Scenario about to lose her bloom?

Tuesday's inflation figures came as little surprise. The Budget's tax increases alone meant that there would be an increase, and higher mortgages compounded this. None the less, the May headline rate of 4.2 per cent - up from 4 per cent in April - was well ahead of most City forecasts. The underlying rate, which is targeted at 2.5 per cent, rose from 3 per cent to 3.2 per cent, the highest since November 1996.

All sorts of explanations have been offered, from the 10.9 per cent increase in housing costs to the 9.1 per cent tobacco price inflation. We have even managed to get in our national fixation with the weather, rain damage spoiling the crop and forcing an 8.3 per cent increase in the price of fruit and vegetables - the largest since 1963.

The rise in interest rates a fortnight ago to 7.5 per cent was bad enough, but these latest figures catch the Bank of England between a rock and a hard place. Obligated to keep inflation down - which would indicate a further interest rate rise - the prospect of a strengthening pound on the back of still higher interest rates is enough to send shivers down the spines of exporters who are worried enough, with justification, about the effects of the existing exchange rate. No sooner had the inflation figures been announced than the sterling index rose from 105.7 to 106.1.

On top of all this, when the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee raised base rates last month they did so in ignorance of the Chancellor's public spending plans. The looser fiscal policy which they imply and Eddie George's warning that "we are closer to overheating" than we have been "in a long time" surely make another interest rate rise certain.

But worries about the inflation rate as such should be kept in perspective. Retail prices have remained more or less stable since Black Wednesday in 1992, even



during the real boom years. House-price rises, a rising stock market and money supply growth are all, however, now having their effect. So it is not Gordon Brown who should be held responsible, but Kenneth Clarke - not least for the lax interest-rate policy at the end of his chancellorship.

Less striking but more worrying are yesterday's labour market figures. The first rise in the number of jobless for two years (the last blip in an otherwise steady five-year fall) is almost certainly due to the combination of the strong pound and interest rate rises. With no likelihood of either of these being reversed, the chances are that unemployment will continue to rise - albeit in tiny steps. But the 5.2 per cent increase in average earnings - the

highest rise since recovery began - needs to be watched. Inflation may not yet be a worry, but if we move towards the traditional British wage-price spiral we will certainly be in trouble. A CBI survey published yesterday found that some big companies are cutting back on property investment in the expectation that economic growth will slow - often an accurate harbinger of future developments.

There is as yet no reason to think that we are about to enter a recession. However, while none of the individual measurements are in themselves cause for alarm, taken together they have the makings of something worrying.

The Chancellor has so far demonstrated a nifty touch. But we will only see his true mettle in the next few months.

Bringing justice to the world's tyrants

DELEGATES FROM 157 countries have assembled in Rome to discuss the creation of an international criminal court designed, as Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General put it, to end the "global culture of impunity". The conference is the result of two years of detailed planning aimed at finalising a world-wide convention on global justice. Any serious international conference has to be submerged in paperwork, and this one is fully up to speed. The delegates have before them draft statutes running to 173 pages, 115 articles and 1,300 sub-clauses.

Although some kind of final product is almost certain to emerge, the real question is just how powerful the eventual court will be. There have been severe doubts about the effectiveness of the ad hoc courts set up by the UN Security Council to try crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, but the mere fact that the international community was able to muster sufficient energy and commitment to dip its toe in the water gave an impetus to a more formalised approach.

Now that something permanent is envisaged, however, realpolitik has entered the calculations. With the sole - and admirable - exception of Great Britain, the members of the Security Council object to a free-standing court, effectively able to decide its own agenda. They appear likely to veto any body which is not subservient to the UN - and thus to their own interests.

There are great practical difficulties involved in setting up such a court - the question of how the statutes would stand in relation to the national laws of sovereign nations, for instance. But in a world in which tyranny and butchery are an ever-present concern, the need for a powerful, well-resourced and transparently independent system of international justice is paramount.

A taxing question

AS IF we hadn't heard enough of Viagra, now come the calls for it to be made available on the NHS. Perhaps. The latest data says that 39 per cent of American 40-year-olds are impotent. Even taking a conservative estimate, that is the equivalent of some seven million Brits. At \$10 a pill, a box of 30 costs about £200. That means £1.4 billion a year to give just one box to every impotent man in the country - which would add just under a penny to the basic rate of income tax. Over to you, Mr Dobson.

France, a lucky nation poised on the brink of sustained prosperity

HASTING THE World Cup is a great way of getting noticed so, of course, for the past few weeks, France has found itself under the microscope.

Britons always find it hard to come to terms with our neighbour, for she always seems to present two, very different, faces. We have seen this clash between the two realities again and again: the grand, beautifully organised stadiums and the hopeless ticketing arrangements; or the excellent electronic transmission facilities and the Air France strike.

We veer between admiration and irritation, between a sense of inferiority (their trains, their food, their style) and superiority (our airlines, our food, our style). How else could you explain the fact that we have elevated London past Paris to the status of restaurant capital of the world except as a mixture of our insecurity and our cockiness?

Over the past five years the cockiness has been more in evidence, for two solid economic reasons. One is cyclical: our economy has grown faster than the French, which has only really improved into a solid recovery this year.

The other is structural: we have made a number of painful changes to our economy over the past 20 years which France is just starting to make. Together these have helped not only to cut our unemployment to half the French level, but also to push the pound back up to 10 francs. Whether it is eating at a posh Paris restaurant or rioting in Marseilles, we can afford it. Economic success is not the only component of cultural self-confidence, but it helps a lot.

But do not expect this to last. The

economic pendulum will swing back. In fact yesterday's news on rising unemployment in the UK shows that the pendulum is swinging now. France will again start to enjoy faster growth than Britain, possibly even this year. And eventually France, too, will make the structural changes it needs to make. One small example: by facing down that Air France pilots' strike the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, may have managed to do from the left what his predecessor failed to achieve from the right: start to reinstate some discipline into French labour practices.

If you stand back and look at France's international comparative position, there are great strengths that will serve it well. There are also three serious problems, of which more in a moment; first focus on those strengths.

It is very clear that the world economy will shift further to services during the next couple of decades, and that what remains of manufacturing in Europe will rely on high technology, productivity and craft skills to survive. Well, France is a larger exporter of services than the UK. Its strength is more than anything else in tourism, while the UK's is in financial services. But maybe tourism will grow even faster over the next couple of decades than finance.

Look at manufacturing, and the areas likely to prosper are precisely those in which France has comparative advantage: high tech, high productivity (currently still higher than the UK), and high craft.

These are deep strengths, embedded in the culture of the country. By contrast, many of the weaknesses can be fixed, given the political will.



HAMISH MCRAE
We veer between inferiority (their trains, food and style) and superiority (our airlines, food and style)

One of the main reasons why unemployment is so high in France is misplaced job protection legislation. It is expensive to get rid of people. Insiders, men with secure jobs, do well; outsiders, the young, the poorly educated, women, immigrants, tend to do badly.

France's rigid labour market, unlike Britain's of the 1970s, is not principally the product of excessive union power, though it sometimes seems so. It is the product of poorly crafted laws, something that is easier to fix. As it happens, some of the present government's policies, such as limiting the working week to 35 hours, take things in the wrong direction. But on a 20-year view this does not matter. At some stage these policies will be reversed, because they have to be.

There has been a problem of political leadership in France, winning popular support for unpopular measures. It is possible that it will be easier for the left to gain such support

than the right. The left has continued the budgetary cuts needed to meet the Maastricht targets; it could continue the market reforms too, albeit at a slower pace.

In any case the single currency will act as a discipline on the whole of continental Europe, forcing convergence of good practice in industry and commerce just as Maastricht has forced convergence in government. When it does, the underlying strengths will come into play.

So what can go wrong? There are a couple of real concerns, which will dog France over the next 20 years. One is that reform will take place in a discontinuous way. It is tough to go through any period of big social and economic change unless you can buffer that change by compensating the losers. If people are going to lose their jobs you need to make sure that they have secure pensions. Given the ageing population there will not be a lot of spare resources available to compensate those who lose out. The French may therefore go through one of the sudden, searing, political changes that take place there every couple of generations.

The other concern is economic. France has a problem with French. Or rather it has a problem with English. There has been a rise in the importance of English in the world economy. This is partly a function of the increased importance of the entertainment industries in world trade. These account for about 7 per cent of US exports, the country which dominates the French league. I looked at the list of top films in the French box office a few weeks back and all but one

of the top five was American. A generation ago, British students were brought up, on French films; now even the French don't seem to want them.

But it is not just entertainment: English is enormously important in the adoption of information technology, the fastest-growing single area of growth in the economies of developed countries. The US leads the way, but other countries which score high in investment in information technology are the UK, the Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands - all countries which either speak English as a first language or are very proficient in it. Investment in information technology is much lower in France, Italy and Spain. Internet use is surprisingly low in France despite the fact that the technology is theoretically language-neutral.

To crank more productivity out of service industries particularly requires investment in information technology. The problem is not evident now, but 10 years down the line countries that have not embraced the new technologies will find themselves at a serious competitive disadvantage.

The balance sheet for France is still positive. Its underlying strengths will become more significant in the new service-oriented world. It is a lucky country in a tantalising position: the prize of sustained prosperity through the next two decades is there to be grasped, but the country needs to reach out and grasp it. The gap in economics between relative success and relative failure is such a narrow one, as we know in Britain. I suppose that applies in football, too.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I know that violence is endemic in these type of games. I've played the Elton wall game and that was an extremely violent experience."
Alan Clark, Conservative MP, on football hooliganism

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"At fifty everyone has the face he deserves."
George Orwell, novelist

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE



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The Samaritans

Boston Globe, US JUSTICE HAS been served in the Louise Woodward case. But the finality of the decision should not obscure the fact that the an pair system under which she worked is inherently exploitative of young women and invites tragedy.

This case, for all its complications and legal manoeuvring, showed the strength and flexibility of Massachusetts justice. The same cannot be said of the an pair system which operates under the guise of providing a learning experience for young

women from abroad. In fact, it is a system of cut-rate child care, and child care is no place for confused, inexperienced, frustrated, immature or angry young women - barely more than girls - working by themselves.

Peter S. Canellas, Boston.com (Internet) DURING THIS case, much grief was aired. Little was settled. There is no consensus on Woodward's culpability. Nor a definitive view of who was more poorly served by the legal

process, Woodward or the Eppens. The British aren't even sure whether to be appalled by the tawdriness of the US justice system - or to put their own trials on TV.

Boston Herald LOUISE WOODWARD was well-liked by her elders: she was smart, well-spoken and a volunteer at both the Science and Children's Museums.

"Good-natured, trustworthy, honest, intelligent, capable, balanced and, most important, kind," said the Woodward family's clergyman about the young woman whose rage left a two-inch crack in a nine-month-old's skull.

Now she is on her way home, someday to start a family of her own.

Lauri Umansky, Salon Magazine (Internet) EVEN THOUGH the defence team's playing of the "working mother" card didn't work, the

outpouring of sympathy for Woodward after the initial verdict illustrated how conflicted our culture still is about the relationship between motherhood and work.

The Economist, UK ENGLAND IS the home of Mary Poppins, while Massachusetts is the scene of the Salem witch-hunts; and so the televised trial for murder of an English at pair girl in the state of Massachusetts played on potent stereotypes right from the start.

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Final verdicts on the result of the Louise Woodward case



PANDORA

PATRICK ROBERTSON, who was the late Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party aide-de-camp and a founder of the euro-sceptic Bruges Group, offered some lukewarm encouragement to William Hague's Tory Party on Tuesday evening. He told Pandora that he found it highly unlikely that the Conservatives could win the next general election, but his advice to Hague was to "chill out and wait". If the Boy Wonder heads this, does that mean we'll have photos of him looking miserable at the Notting Hill Carnival for nine more years?

YOU MIGHT want to be aware of the Awareness Campaign Register. Sponsored by a wide range of organisations, the ACR is an effort to keep track of the profusion of "awareness campaigns" now launched in this country. Recently, this diary covered Monday's "National Car-Free Day". Just one of 56 awareness campaigns being conducted this June according to ACR. If you want to keep "Sun Awareness Week" in focus while "National Deafblind Awareness Week" looms, with Help the Aged's "Longest Day" just over the horizon, surf yourself over to ACR's Website at www.awareness.co.uk. On the other hand, considering the 375 awareness campaigns scheduled for 1998, doesn't our mental health demand at least one "Involuntary Unawareness of Anything Week"?

FLEXING THEIR financial muscles comes perfectly naturally to the boys from Goldman Sachs, one of the sponsors of the Royal Court Theatre's "Caribbean Carnival" on Tuesday evening. After an excellent dinner, guests from the soon-to-goat merchant bank took an extremely active part in the "dream auction" under the direction of Nicholas Bonham. Bidding was ferocious, and the Goldman table always set the pace. After they had managed to capture the Terry O'Neill photos of Frank Sinatra, one distinguished but rather dismayed gentleman remarked, "You

just can't bid against Goldman Sachs." Hardly news in the City.

THE REAL life "Donnie Brasco", portrayed by Johnny Depp (pictured below) in the film, is FBI agent Joseph Pistone. He spoke at a recent conference organised by Kroll, the international corporate security outfit, to warn businessmen about a side effect of the Millennium Bug. A Mafia-backed computer company has stolen thousands of dollars from US firms by pretending to solve their "Year 2000" problems, while rewriting software to redirect payments to Mob accounts. "When I was undercover with the Cosa Nostra, I was involved in situations where we would get into a company and introduce fake payroll and vendors to divert money," said Pistone. "That was 15 years ago and the Mafia has gotten more sophisticated since." Let British businessmen be wary of so-called computer bug experts lest they turn out to be profit exterminators.

BESTSELLING AUTHOR John le Carré has sacked both his American agent, Lynn Nesbitt, and publishers, Alfred A. Knopf, for whom his brilliant espionage novels have earned fortunes. It would take a spy of George Smiley's cunning to learn the reason for le Carré's displeasure. When Pandora spoke to his British agent, Bruce Hunter, at the David Higham agency, all he would say was, "I've no idea what's behind it." Was the author contemplating changing his British representation or his UK publishers, Hodder & Stoughton? "Not as far as I know," Hunter said, with a laugh that came in from the cold.

WHAT HAS happened to politics in sleepy Switzerland? Our naughtiest Westminster politicians have done nothing to compare with the scandal caused by Swiss assemblywoman Alessandra Balestra. Formerly the porn star called "Sandy", Balestra was elected to serve in the regional Swiss assembly in 1995. The fact that she has only attended two sessions of the parliament can be explained by how busy she was elsewhere. She has been convicted of dealing 360 grams of cocaine and 90 tabs of ecstasy. What the Swiss really need is a Harriet Harman, some Anne Widdecombe, or even - dare we say it - an Edwina Currie to sort things out.



Why discriminate against the young?

It's wrong for employers to be allowed to exploit young workers. By Lisa Dugdale

I AM 22 years old, and if things go the wrong way on the minimum wage - as I fear they might - I'm going to be one of those people who our Government believes need less to live off than anyone else. In other words, I won't be getting the full protection of the national minimum wage. And I think that stinks.

I know what it's like working for £2.50 an hour: demoralising, isolating, tough and dehumanising. You can't afford to socialise, your resolve goes, your sense of self-worth is undermined. And always, just as you think you're pulling through, a bill arrives in the post.

When Margaret Beckett launched the bill that established the Low Pay Commission last year, she spoke about the Government's strategy "to help make work pay". And surely that's the point. To make work pay, to make it worthwhile, to reward the enthusiasm of young people to find a job and better themselves.

That's apart from the argument of fairness. Excluding young people, solely on the basis of age, from wage exploitation is a flagrant and in-

sulting display of discrimination. I don't see how the Government could justify telling young people that we are not entitled to earn as much as someone over 25.

After all, I am an adult with adult responsibilities. I can vote, pay tax and national insurance. I have to find the money to put a roof over my head and food in my stomach, neither of which cost less because I am under 25, under 21, or whatever the cut-off rate will be.

I am happy to work as hard as anyone, regardless of their age. Why then don't I need wage protection if someone with the same responsibilities who is a few years older does?

And I'm not alone. Consider a few statistics. One million 16-to-25-year-olds are heads of households. One third of them have dependent children. Around 45 per cent of men and women between 18 and 20 are being paid less than £3.70 an hour. How do

these young people manage to bring up their families?

Of course, we're told that young people can always tap their parents for some spare cash. These are the sort of assumptions made by those with no knowledge of real life. At 17 I became estranged from my parents and had to fend for myself. And apart from estrangement, which is not that uncommon, there's the problem of what to do if your parents are unemployed or low-wage earners themselves.

I have spoken to other young people up and down the country about their possible exclusion from the minimum wage and the resentment they felt was compounded by the hardship they are experiencing. The level of debt, for example, is shocking.

On average, in the survey I conducted for the Children's Society, young people who are working have debts of £1,500. It is interesting that

those who don't have jobs have smaller debts, around £1,100. The costs of working, such as travel, clothing and the increased expectation - unfortunately misplaced - of a better standard of living seem to have pushed young people over the edge. One young man I spoke to had been beaten up by debt collectors for £50.

I am starting to see this government as a distant source of power. Take for example its New Deal for getting young people back to work. A great idea, but what's the good in offering a welfare-to-work plan for young people if you don't care if those in it are exploited?

What's the point in training for work if the job at the end of it doesn't pay enough to live on? Young people are discriminated against in other areas, too. If you are under 25 you receive less job seeker's allowance and housing benefit. Once again the ignorant and insulating suggestion is that young people have fewer needs. They certainly have fewer rights.

The whole point of minimum wage legislation is to protect vul-

nerable workers from exploitation by unscrupulous employers. Any tranche of statistics you choose will show that young people are among the most exploited, and the least protected.

To have a minimum wage to protect vulnerable workers and then fail to help those most in need of protection defeats the object of the exercise. It is almost as if we are being told we can't be protected by this legislation because we are not worth investing in.

Excluding us from the protection of the minimum wage not only discriminates, exploits and isolates the young people of this country, it contravenes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Social Charter.

But most of all it is a policy that will condemn young people to debt and poverty. And for a Government committed to ending social exclusion, that's bad news.

The writer carried out research for the Children's Society report *Nothing Less Will Do: Young People's Views on the Minimum Wage*.

Even a child-killer should be able to sell her story

SHOULD LOUISE Woodward sell her story to the tabloid press? Should she be allowed to? Should the press pay for interviews with Louise if they are offered? In my view, the only thing that should stand in the way of such a commercial exchange would be Louise's own best interest.

Practically and pragmatically, it would be a mistake for Louise to cash in now on the dramatic events she has lived through since 4 February last year when the baby in her care, Matthew Eapen, died from a head injury. Her future depends on the support of the British public, which by and large is convinced that she is innocent.

The public here has been behind Louise throughout her trials in the United States, and she must keep it with her now. But just think what would happen if she were to make a deal with just one newspaper. Yes, that paper would give her personal account of what happened that fateful day a full display, and no doubt the paper would come out entirely on Louise's side and be entirely supportive - just as *The Mirror* and *The Express* were with the two Saudi nurses, Deborah Parry and Lucille McLaughlin, found guilty of murdering a colleague, and who made deals with those papers.

The readers of the paper which published Louise's own story might number as many as five million, and they would no doubt be confirmed in their belief in her. But the readers of the other papers, who might number 20 million, would get a very different impression.

The tabloids that missed out on the story (either by being outbid, or deciding not to make an offer) would immediately attack and rubbish her. After all, this is just what happened in the case of the two nurses.

We might not like the fact that our popular press is more interested in circulation figures than in fighting for justice and truth, but that is how



MAX CLIFFORD

The marketplace has proved a better regulator of morals than either governments or rigid codes of ethics

the system we've got works. And those who find themselves in the public eye have to understand how the media works.

If Louise wants to win yet more friends and influence the undecided, she should tell her story to everyone, without restriction or fee. Then no one will have a stake in rubbishing her, and all the newspapers will probably portray Louise in conformity with the positive images their readers already have of her.

There will be no loss for Louise in this, not even a financial one; for the more popular she becomes, the brighter her future for an eventual book, film and TV documentary. As time goes by, Louise will find that by having talked to everybody, and convincing them that she is innocent, there will be no criticism if she benefits in the future.

What you need in matters of public opinion is the backing of the public at large. That's the whole crux of this business: if you're liked and popular, you are likely to be believed. The trick is making sure you stay liked.

There is another side to this matter, however, and that is what the press should allow itself to do. At the

moment, it has signed itself up to a code, promulgated by the Press Complaints Commission, which specifically forbids it to offer "payment for stories, pictures or information - to convicted criminals".

Fortunately, the majority of editors of popular newspapers tend to ignore this pious sentiment whenever commercial interests dictate otherwise.

This is fortunate because in a democracy, the only censor should be the court of public opinion. As a general rule, free speech need not, and should not, be interfered with. If readers don't like a story, if they think their paper is wrong to have published it, they won't buy the paper next time around. Editors will get the message very quickly when their circulation figures start to plummet downwards.

If this does not sound convincing, remember what happened to the circulation of *The Sun* when it blamed the Liverpool fans for the disaster that befell them at Hillsborough. *The Sun* still suffers poor sales in Liverpool for the callous way it reported that tragic event.

Of course, you've got to take every situation on its merits. There's a difference between Mary Bell, and the two Saudi nurses; and between the nurses and Louise Woodward. And between all of them and Myra Hindley.

But even in the case of Myra Hindley there may come a time when she is released from jail. If that were to happen, it would be because she had paid her debt to society. She'd have paid her price according to law, and even in that extreme case once she's paid the price demanded by society for her crimes, the British people should be free to choose whether or not to read newspapers that pay for her story.

Of course, the Press Code is voluntary, and newspapers can break it if they believe their readers will re-



Louise Woodward (left) was ordered not to cash in on her story; Deborah Parry, however, was paid by a tabloid paper

spond positively. The real problem comes from politicians who threaten to pass laws that would make it illegal to buy the stories of convicted criminals or their associates. Just think what would happen to the many campaigns which the press has run to free falsely convicted victims of injustice. Many have been proved to be totally innocent, but editors had paid for information from relations and others who had important knowledge.

Or consider those thugs who have been arrested in France for football violence. When they've come out after three months, if a paper wants to pay them one or two thousand pounds, we might learn why they do things like this. And we might also learn something useful about how to prevent them from causing mayhem in the future. After all, all those experts couldn't stop them; maybe we can learn how they got round the preventive procedures that were put in place. If sitting down

and talking to these thugs might yield something useful, surely payment is one good way to get them talking.

It's easy to criticise the readers of *The Sun* and the other tabloids, to say they have no morals and no sense, and cannot be counted on to be the deciders of what is acceptable in the marketplace. But this is just not so. Look what happened when the nurses sold their stories; they lost public respect and support, and the papers that bought their stories did themselves no good either.

Politicians and moralists who prate about freedom have to learn to trust the people to use that freedom wisely. The marketplace has proved itself over the years to be a better regulator of morals than either governments or rigid codes of ethics.

The writer advises stars and organisations on press relations and publicity.

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Welcome aboard the Euro Titanic

ALL OVER the world people are struggling to be free. In Kosovo, Albanians are demanding self-government. In Sri Lanka the Tamils, in Iraq, Turkey and Iran the Kurds demand independence. According to the polls even the Scots now demand separation from the United Kingdom.

Yet here in the European Union our masters are intent on reducing independent nations into mere provinces of a state called Europe.

Surely they must be mad? At the end of the British six months' presidency of the European Union Council (not, by the way, the Presidency of Europe - a post which does not yet exist), has the democratic deficit been reduced? What progress has been made by the process of subsidiarity in returning home to this country, to our people, to our parliament, the powers which had previously been transferred to Brussels?

The answer is simple and clear in each case. None. None. None.

Indeed, by the Treaty of Amsterdam the process has

accelerated in the opposite direction. Not only that, but the agreement on the next stage of monetary union - taken in clear breach of the criteria and requirements set out in the Treaty of Maastricht - has increased the centripetal tendency of the European Union. For the first time in hundreds of years we find ourselves ruled by an elite who insist that whilst we must obey the laws they make, they are free to break those laws themselves when it suits them.

It was at Runnymede that the barons started the process, through Magna Carta, of bringing the monarchy under the law. Now after 900 years that process is being reversed.

Yet Mr Blair announced on Wednesday his concerns about centralisation. He wants, he says, to bring back powers to Britain. But how did these powers ever become centralised?

He has been in the presidency since January, and now in its dying days he talks about bringing powers home. It's a bit late, Prime Minister. But you could start by announcing that your Government will not hand responsibility for setting in-



PODIUM LORD TEBBIT

Extract from a speech given by the former Tory party chairman to an Anti-Maastricht Alliance rally in Cardiff

Interest rates to the bankers in Frankfurt.

Everyone knows that within a monetary union there can be only one bank rate. Within Euroland it will be no more possible for Finland to have a different rate from Portugal than it is today for the rate in Cardiff to differ from that in Edinburgh. Suppose then that one

country (it could be us, if Mr Blair and his ally Mr Heseltine have their way) needs lower interest rates to avoid sliding into recession or slump, but the bankers decide that Germany needs higher rates to cool down a boom.

Obviously in that country unemployment would rise. The government would not be allowed to increase expenditure, nor to cut taxes - that would break the rules on the public sector borrowing limits. It could not cut interest rates.

Suppose, then, at an election the people elected a parliament committed to lower interest rates and taxes. What then? Tough luck.

That is what I described as the Euro Titanic - with no lifeboats. If the democratic path is blocked by the edicts of unelected officials then the people will be bound to look for another path.

Sooner or later mainstream taxes will have to be the same across Euroland. There is no example of a single currency having differing mainstream taxes in the world. There is no doubt in the minds of the leading continental politicians that

monetary union, fiscal union and political union cannot exist separately.

So where does this leave the democratic process in the EU? Last week a Committee of the European Parliament issued a report recommending that all member states adopt a single PR system for elections in which 10 per cent of MEPs would be elected from a list of candidates in one single EU-wide constituency. The leader of the so-called Conservative MEPs is reported to have given his support to the idea.

Quite clearly this is a step towards the creation of Euro-land. And the message is clear. If you want any democracy in the EU you must accept not only the single currency, but the single parliament and the single sovereign state.

The single currency is a dangerous political instrument which would destroy our national democracy.

If we do not oppose it through our domestic institutions, then it will destroy those very institutions themselves. How then would the will of the people be expressed?

So how good a parent are you?



DAVID AARONOVITCH
Can ministers campaign against drink-driving, but not against the worse crime of incompetence in charge of the future?

AUNT SALLY has just written another pamphlet, and Uncle Jack would probably much rather she hadn't. Her effort - which will certainly have every liberal commentator in Britain happily foaming at the mouth - is published by the Demos think-tank today and is entitled "The Family in Question".

Supposedly penned by a Professor "Stein Ringen" of Green College, Oxford (a rather obvious leg-pull in my opinion), this work calls for - among other things - the discouragement of cohabitation, and for children to have rights of veto over parental divorce and abortion. Can't you just imagine little Knut or Inge Ringen bargaining for that new pair of in-line skates, in return for allowing Daddy to elope with the au pair?

No, neither can I. So that's why I say that it has Aunt Sally's fingerprints all over it.

Uncle Jack Straw's unhappiness stems from the fact that his own efforts will now be confounded with Stein Ringen's by those perpetual critics of Family Values, the liberal columnists. When, in July, he stands up to announce the establishment of a National Family and Parenting Institute, he will be met with predictable ridicule.

Images of Dickensian moralists and other proselytising grotesques will be conjured out of word-processors and used to frighten readers of this and other newspapers. The Witch-finder General will be portrayed as being loose in the countryside, bringing with him the full panoply of puritanical accoutrements: scold's bridle, ducking stool, compulsory meditation, moral education and - of course - stigmatisation (single parents, for the use of).

According to reports yesterday (see under "deliberate leak") the new Institute will be given half a million pounds of government money, and its charitable status will allow it to raise untaxed funds from other sources. Its patriarch or matriarch will be a "telegenic personality" on 80 grand a year, and its board will (says the *Daily Mail*) "have leading figures of all political persuasions" on it.

The remit of the NFFI will be to



Can government really be involved in helping us to raise our children better, or are all such initiatives simply the thin edge of a totalitarian wedge?

oversee health visitors (who give advice to parents in the first year of a child's life), to set standards for classes in parenting, to operate a telephone "parentline" - all of this aimed at helping mummies and daddies to bring the kids up a bit better. Just call them up, and they'll tell you how to do it.

So, over time, NFFI will be the place from which our sense of what constitutes good parenting will spring... Stand up the person who just said "Bleughh!" I know what you're thinking - God knows I've seen it written down often enough. You believe that, at worst, this is the thin end of the totalitarian wedge, don't you?

This is an invasion of private space by public authorities, all of a piece with Uncle Jack's notorious curfew for 10-year-olds. Besides, how can the Government or some central agency lay down for individuals what is best for their children? And even if they could, it's futile. Those who want to be "good" parents already bring their kids up that way - and those who don't, aren't going to take any bleeding notice, anyway.

Oh, and while we're about it, let's throw in the poverty objection for good measure, which is the best indicator of a child's well-being, and that other considerations are secondary - so get your cheque-books out.

It is true that there is something about the notion of parenting that is relentlessly middle class. People who use "parent" as a verb are probably those who buy magazines featuring articles about where to take vegetarian children during the summer holidays, and whose major concern is whether to let Bryony learn the saxophone. Their spiritual home is in Center Parcs, and their true motive is to inculcate in the rebellious and untidy working classes values that will guarantee against their sons being burgled by badly parented progeny.

It is little wonder, then, that some columnists, reminded of their own strained relationship with their parents, and of the joys of liberation, now see the government with its Family Values as a kind of ultimate Paternalism. Nothing gives them greater pleasure than turning

round to Uncle Jack, sticking their tongues out and shouting "Shan't! Won't!" at the top of their printed voices.

They're completely wrong, of course. Those who are infertile and wish to adopt children often compare the qualifications you need to pass muster as a prospective parent with the complete absence of any skill or quality that is required before one can become a biological parent.

To drive a car you need a licence. To have a child all you need is a uterus, a basin of hot water and some towels. The consequences are visible in any public place.

While most people manage OK (though we could all do with some help), some are appalling parents. There are the shouters, the hitters, the inconsistent indulgers, the parents who - while splitting up - make their children bear the brunt of their own emotional pain, those who do little or nothing to encourage their children at school, those who belligerently take the child's side against the teacher who is trying to teach.

And the rest of us, how good are

we? How many divorced fathers lose touch altogether with children who are desperate to see them? How many divorced mothers deny proper access to those fathers?

What help do we give with homework and reading? How hard do we listen to what our children are saying, and how much effort do we put into answering their questions? How much time do we spend with them, and do we enjoy it, or begrudge it?

The truth is that there are indeed better and worse ways of being a parent. And it is also true that being a parent is one of the most socially important roles that one can take on.

How can it possibly be, then, that there is no role for government in helping to define and encourage good parenting? Can it really campaign against smoking and drink-driving, but not against the far worse crime of incompetence in charge of the future?

Of course, there is a danger of a deadening Swiss-style social conformism being the consequence of an over-adviced society. But it is interesting that the government's initiative has been criticised by those

on its political right for not sufficiently emphasising the desirability of parents being married and staying that way.

As shadow minister and Tory thinker David Willetts put it to me, "The government uses the F word [family], but is afraid to use the M word [marriage]". He would like to see cohabitation (or consensual union) discouraged, as the evidence suggests that such relationships are more prone to break down.

As a consensual unionist myself, I think that Willetts is wrong. Uncle Jack (himself a divorcee and a son of divorced parents) understands that a stance which implies a judgement on who exactly people choose to love and live with is likely to alienate many of the parents whom he wishes to help.

It might be better if Gideon and Betty could find a way of staying together through a rough patch - but that's Aunt Sally's province. The real issue is how - whatever the decision is - the kids are going to be brought up. And Uncle Jack may be able to help us there.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DOUG HENDERSON



The Minister for Europe defends the Government's presidency of the European Union

SIX MONTHS ago, Tony Blair launched Britain's presidency of the European Union at Waterloo station. He set out an ambitious agenda under the slogan of "giving Europe back to the people". It included two steps that would profoundly change the nature of Europe: enlargement and Economic and Monetary Union.

First, enlargement. We said we would get this off to a good start, and we have done so. We brought all the applicants into an inclusive process in which they can each move at their own speed to membership. Now, the prospect of a re-united continent is considerably closer.

Next, EMU. We made clear early on that Britain was not going to be in the single currency at the start. But we did say we would do everything we could to ensure a successful launch. The Summit could have been smoother, but the result was an effective launch for the euro, reflected by the markets' positive response.

We have made progress in moving Europe closer to the people on subjects they care about. Our presidency has seen agreement on a series of measures. Some are well known: a ban on drift-net fishing that should help to protect dolphins, and a first step to high standards for Europe's arms exports. Others will become better known, such as the agreement to create a single market for the next generation of mobile phones.

Six months is not a long time in the EU. Change is slow. We have made good, workmanlike progress. But Britain's standing has been transformed. There are few doubts that we are a committed and innovative partner in Europe. That is good for Britain and for Europe.

An England team behaving perfectly

THIS IS the story of an English cricket team that went to India to compete in a World Cup, lost, and did so without whingeing. Displaying stamina and good humour, they undertook an itinerary that would try the patience of even the most hardened India hand, shuttling from one end of the subcontinent to another by plane, bus and train. Since they were women, there was no money and little glory on offer, but motivation was not a problem and commitment never in doubt.

Unlike the team taking the field today against South Africa, these England cricketers had actually won a World Cup, upsetting New Zealand in the 1993 final at Lord's (a venue that appears to inhibit the men). That victory led to a brief flurry of interest from the cricket media, eager to use the women's triumph to bash the hapless men. The momentary excitement was quickly followed by a return to accustomed oblivion and the hard graft of building a game from the grass roots. By the time they visited India last December to defend the title, the England women had managed to scrape together sponsorship, support staff, and - in Pete Davies' - the most adept chronicler the women's game has yet attracted.

Davies takes the women cricketers on their own terms, not as foils for the men. He shares their sense of mission and writes sympathetically of their skills and struggles, without ever striking a patronising note. He enjoyed a degree of access and trust a reporter following the men's team could only dream of, and he does not abuse it. The frustrations, conflicts, failures and occasional sulks are there, but underlying Davies' frank team portrait is a sober respect which comes as a welcome relief from the wild hunching between sentiment and cynicism which blights so much writing about the men's game.

The book offers a rare insight into



THURSDAY BOOK

MAD DOGS AND ENGLISH WOMEN
BY PETE DAVIES. ABACUS. £9.99

a small but vital corner of the sporting universe, and reveals much about the dilemmas confronting women who seek to play uncommercial sport at the highest competitive level.

These England cricketers are working-class women - van drivers and teachers, posties and clerical workers - and the spirit in which they play the game is as far from the old public school ethos as can be imagined. They drive themselves to achieve professional standards of performance without any hope of a professional's reward.

Curiously, and precisely because they are not playing for cash and career, their motives seem more elusive than their male counterparts'. One of the pleasures of Davies' book is watching the women themselves trying to figure out what keeps them

going, even as they do keep on going, often in circumstances that drive the author himself to despair.

Davies approaches India with a generous spirit, but his patience wears thin, and a curmudgeonly white creeps into the prose as he marshals the familiar cast of obtuse bureaucrats, incompetent waiters, and hair-raising drivers. For all the precisely observed sketches of the "grubby vividness" of India, it remains an India glimpsed from a great distance, where even the fall of the government is merely a passing headline. Disappointingly, Davies makes no attempt to ascertain the state of the woman's game in India or to explore its place in south Asian society. His attitude towards the country remains fond but deeply frustrated and utterly baffled. The resultant grinchiness colours too much of the



Charlotte Edwards in action in Hyderabad Craig Prentis/Allsport

narrative, sometimes pushing the real subject, the England cricketers, out of sight.

Earlier this year, the Women's Cricket Association voted to end 70 years of independence by folding itself into the English Cricket Board, which administers the men's game. The lure of recognition and resources outweighed anxieties about lost autonomy. However, in light of the sex discrimination ruling against the ECB in March, and the crass sexism revealed in the evidence given to the In-

dustrial Tribunal, women cricketers will expect few favours. (ECB Chief Executive Tim Lamb is alleged to have remarked of England's women cricketers that "We need the dykes in to get the lottery money".)

And television viewers should note that the same MCC membership which has staunchly barred women from membership gave overwhelming approval to the construction of the ungainly new media centre at Lord's, hanging over the Nursery End like an airborne southern Californian taco stand. What counts for cricket's old guard is not so much tradition as privilege and power. They are unlikely to cede either to women without pressure from the outside world.

Rightly, Davies ends his book by urging readers to attend this summer's big series against the world champion Australians. Cricket lovers would be daft to miss the chance to see an England side hungry for revenge take on the polished talents of Belinda Clark, the record-breaking opening bat; Kathryn Fitzpatrick, the tearaway fast bowler; and Olivia Magno, slow bowler and rebarbative sledger.

MIKE MARQUESE

THURSDAY POEM

LOCAL OBITS BY THOMAS LYNCH

It was the Alzheimer's made Maurice sweet those last ten years in contrast with the six decades and then some of huffing and puffing his way through three marriages, a couple unsuccessful runs for public office, his business and the love of his children. God's Will is what his only daughter called it, to see that awful, angry man gone soft,

gone simple and benevolent at last. "You take the good with the bad," she reckoned. "He didn't know me at the end, but he approved."

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Thomas Lynch's third collection, "Still Life in Milford", just published by Jonathan Cape (£8).

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Morris Kestelman

ALTHOUGH FOR the last 35 years Morris Kestelman concentrated on abstract painting, he is probably best known for his depictions of French peasants, Spanish fishermen, circus artists, and beautifully composed landscapes where light and shade alternate in playful, subtle games. The solidity of his figures and his emphasis on movement gave his work a strong affinity with that of Bernard Meninsky, one of his teachers, while with Josef Herman he shared an interest in people at work and the rhythm of their bodies, echoed by shapes in the surrounding landscape.

These paintings and drawings from the mid-Fifties to the mid-Fifties have a pleasing directness and convey his love of landscape in the lush blues, vivid ochres and greens of the Mediterranean. Kestelman's peasants and fishermen busy themselves with everyday tasks: digging the land, mending nets and tending flocks. There is a reaffirmation of humanity and life in all these paintings, but they are never sentimental.

In Kestelman's paintings from the

late Fifties to the early Sixties a gradual change is discernible: the landscapes tend more and more to abstract shapes and patterns, but, curiously, there is always some lingering reference to things representational.

Morris Kestelman's first exhibition at the Boundary Gallery in London in 1989 was also the first time his early figurative and later abstract endeavours were hung together under the same roof. This juxtaposition clearly showed that his changing style followed a harmonious and almost inevitable development. Certain features remained constant: the dramatic use of sensuous and vivid colours and a powerful drive to distil the essence of life.

What happened, as Kestelman himself said, was that he came to the end of his figurative vocabulary. His abstract compositions were always carefully planned and within a narrow range of warm colours. Texture assumed a new importance, with powerful brushwork and several layers of thinly applied paint, thereby creating a strong sense of depth. In their expressive distortions and superimposed images his abstract paintings contain echoes of his work as a student in the Twenties. In fact what made Kestelman such an interesting and good artist was that he never stopped experimenting.

Morris Kestelman had an inauspicious start for an artist - his parents were immigrants from Eastern Europe, and he was brought up in the Jewish East End of London. He always stood well outside English tradition and could be best described as a true European both as an artist and a person.

In 1922 he gained a scholarship to the Central School of Art where he first met Bernard Meninsky, who taught him everything he knew about drawing; and later the teacher/student relationship devel-

oped into a firm friendship. It was through Meninsky that Kestelman got involved with the avant-garde London Group - he helped organise their 1926 exhibition in which Epstein, Bomberg, Matthew Smith, Sickert, Roger Fry and Vanessa Bell all took part. He was elected to the group in 1931.

Among his fellow students were Barnett Freedman, James Flitton and the illustrator James Boswell. Among his teachers were William Roberts and A.S. Hartwick, who had known Van Gogh and Cézanne and who was perhaps responsible for awakening Kestelman's passion for French painting and for France herself which - except for the war years - he visited annually for extended periods from 1930 onwards. During his first visit he stayed in the same studio as Chaim Soutine had many years earlier, in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

Kestelman's art training continued at the Royal College of Art, where his interest in theatre and costume design was aroused. His first attempt in this field was for *The Magic Flute*, performed at Birkbeck College in 1929. His next theatrical venture, to do the sets for *Carmen* at Sadler's Wells in 1940, was at the invitation of Tyrone Guthrie. After the war he designed a number of productions at the Old Vic including *Richard III* starring Laurence Olivier.

Another aspect of his theatre work came about in 1937 when he was commissioned by Noel Coward to illustrate a book on the circus. In a typically thorough way, Kestelman watched as many performances of the Bertram Mills Circus as he could. The results are a series of beautifully finished, co-arse pastel drawings covering every facet of circus performances. These were sadly never published because of the outbreak of war. The originals



Fishermen, Blanes, by Kestelman, oil on canvas, 1956

Boundary Gallery

- more than a hundred of them, and Kestelman's best-selling works - are all dispersed. Last year the Boundary Gallery published four selected circus images in a limited edition print for his 92nd birthday.

During the war he applied himself with the same thoroughness to his studies of work in an aircraft repair factory; the resulting drawings are comparable to Henry Moore's Tube shelter sleepers.

Kestelman was always sad that his abstract work never achieved the same response as his figurative work, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than the wonderful notice he received in the Royal Academy's illustrated catalogue last year, where it was stated that if one artist were to be singled out from the whole

exhibition, it would be Kestelman - his four paintings in the show were all abstract works!

However, Kestelman is unclassifiable to both periods of his career. He was a contemporary of John Craxton, John Minton, Michael Ayrton, Keith Vaughan, Robert Colquhoun and Robert MacBryde, yet Kestelman is less famous than any of them. He is one of the group of British artists who are not known sufficiently.

He was engaged in teaching throughout his working life, starting at Wimbledon School of Art and ending up as Head of Painting and Sculpture at the Central School of Art from 1951 to 1971. He exerted enormous influence on two generations of artists and was also great-

ly respected as an authority on painting. In 1966 he served with Herbert Read on the jury for the Guggenheim International Painting Award in the United States.

Though his teaching was full-time, and he was only able to paint during the holidays, such an arrangement allowed him to follow his own path, and to change style in the middle of his artistic career.

Kestelman only had nine solo exhibitions throughout his long 70-year career; all were at different galleries except the last three which took place at the Boundary Gallery, in 1989, 1993 and 1995. It took some considerable persuasion to convince him to agree to the first at my (then) new gallery. It was an enormous success. We developed a good

working relationship as well as a warm friendship.

Morris Kestelman was a charming, erudite man. He was also incredibly well-read (in French as well as English) and his capacity to enjoy life was boundless except for the last 15 months, after the death of his wife. His philosophy of art had always been "to revel in the sunny side of life... heaven knows we all need the solace we can get from art."

Ag Katz

Morris Kestelman, artist: born London 5 October 1905; Head of Painting and Sculpture School, Central School of Art 1951-71; RA 1996; married 1936 Dorothy Creagh (died 1997; one daughter); died London 15 June 1998.



Kestelman: experimenting

Jerry Capehart

JERRY CAPEHART was the producer and songwriter who, with Eddie Cochran, co-wrote the rock 'n' roll anthems "Summertime Blues" and "C'mon Everybody".

In October 1955, Capehart came across the young Cochran in Bell Gardens, California. "I met him in a small music store," Capehart would tell journalists later. "I was in to buy guitar picks and he was looking for guitar strings. I had been searching for someone to make demonstration records of my songs and the store owner introduced me to Eddie, who was 17 at the time."

Cochran and Capehart really hit off. The singer had just formed the Cochran Brothers with Hank Cochran (although the two were not related). The duo had made the switch from hillbilly music to the more potent brand of rock 'n' roll they had seen Elvis Presley pioneer on stage.

Capehart, who had fought in the Korean war, was already a songwriter of some repute. In 1951, he had composed "Beautiful Brown Eyes" and seen both Rosemary Clooney and the country vocalist Jimmy Wakely take the song into the American charts. However, Capehart's own singing career, under various guises (including the names Jerry Berryhill and Jerry Neal), had not proved as successful, and he had started using the Cochran Brothers to cut demos of his songs. He also pitched the recordings to prospective record companies. When Walkin' Stick Boogie appeared on the Cash label in 1956, it was credited to Jerry Capehart featuring the Cochran Brothers. On Ekko, "Tired and Sleepy" / "Pool's Paradise" was by the Cochran Brothers. However, the "square"-looking Hank seemed to be holding the other two back and he eventually left for Nashville, while Eddie went solo.

Capehart became Cochran's co-writer, producer, manager and confidant.

The pair spent hours in the studio, creating and overdubbing instrumental tracks like "Guybo" (named after the bassist Connie "Guybo" Smith who played on most of the recordings) and gaining a mastery of the studio which would later stand them in good stead. They also put out the odd single by Jewel & Eddie and the Kelly Four on Capehart's labels, Silver and Capehart Records, while Cochran supplemented his income with session dates as a lead guitarist. All the while, Capehart, convinced he had found a real gem, was hustling Cochran around the Californian music industry.

American Music, a Hollywood publishing company, eventually released Cochran's first solo single, "Skiway Jim", on their Crest label in 1956. Encouraged by this break, Capehart took the singer into the famous Gold Star studios (later used by the ace producer Phil Spector) to cut more demos. "Twenty Flight Rock" turned out well, and armed with this and three other tracks, Capehart secured a recording contract for his charge with Si Waronker of Liberty Records who just happened to be on the lookout for his own Elvis Presley. Around the same time, Cochran was also spotted by the movie-producer Boris Petroff who booked him to provide backing music on a soundtrack. He also offered Cochran a part in *The Girl Can't Help It*, the John Shandkin movie featuring the ample charms of Jayne Mansfield and the *crème de la crème* of a new musical genre.

With his quiff, his moody look and his trademark Gretsch 6120 guitar, Cochran caught teenagers' imagination as he performed "Twenty Flight Rock". Little Richard, Fats



Capehart, right, with Eddie Cochran on stage in Los Angeles, 1956

Rockstar Records

Domino and Gene Vincent also appeared in the 1956 film, which sparked off riots and marked the beginnings of youth culture. However, the following year, while the movie was being screened around the United States, Liberty shelved "Twenty Flight Rock" as a single and decided to promote the ballad "Sittin' in the Balcony" which became a US Top 20 hit.

Subsequently, the charismatic Eddie Cochran starred alongside Mamie Van Doren in another teen

classic, *Untamed Youth* (1957, directed by Howard W. Koch). The singer also toured Australia with Little Richard, the Everly Brothers and Gene Vincent and released his debut album, *Singin' To My Baby*, in 1958. As Capehart subsequently admitted, "the selection of songs on the first album was a broad general cross-section. We were looking and hoping that something would come out of the album to give Eddie more identity as a singer."

By the middle of that year, the pro-

ducer was beginning to despair of ever following up Cochran's first hit, after "Drive-In Show" and the next four singles all flopped. The two finally hit their stride with the infectious "Summertime Blues", one minute 59 seconds of pure adolescent angst. This track only became the A-side after "One Minute To One" was rejected as too similar to "Sittin' in the Balcony".

Analysing the appeal of "Summertime Blues", written in 45 minutes, as Cochran played around

with the catchy acoustic guitar riff and Capehart clapped and chimed in with lyrics, has baffled generations of critics.

I'm gonna raise a fuss, I'm a-gonna raise a holler, About a-workin' all summer just-a-trying to earn a dollar, Everytime I call my baby, try to get a date, The boss says: "No dice son, you gotta work a-late." Sometimes I wonder what I'm a-gonna do, But there ain't no cure for the Summertime Blues.

went the opening verse and chorus, the fourth line being spoken with a basso profundo effect.

A US Top Ten hit in 1958, "Summertime Blues" has since become a rock 'n' roll classic. It has been re-released (in 1968, when it again made the Top Forty), has featured in movies, and has also been successfully re-interpreted by the American rockers Blue Cheer, by The Who on their masterful 1970 album *Live At Leeds* and, most recently, by the country singer Al Jackson.

"C'mon Everybody", Eddie Cochran's follow-up single, was crafted around a similar theme and made you want to dance just as much. As the song says, "When you hear that music, you can't sit still."

Later, Capehart would willingly explain his contribution to the recordings he supervised: "Primarily, I was a lyricist, but Eddie also contributed words from time to time. He would start playing a lick on guitar and we'd bring the song together from a collaboration of ideas. As a general rule, all of the records like 'Summertime Blues', 'C'mon Everybody', 'My Way' and 'Something Else', in fact all the heavy rhythm items, the mainstays were Eddie, Guybo on bass and Earl Palmer on drums."

In 1959, Cochran was featured in *Go Johnny Go*, directed by Paul Lan-

dres and produced by Alan Freed, the American DJ who had coined the term "rock 'n' roll". This time, Cochran sang "Teenage Heaven", another song he had written with Capehart, but Chuck Berry stole the movie.

The following January, Cochran came to Britain and toured with Gene Vincent. The 10-week series of concerts proved so popular that it was extended (a young George Harrison was said to have followed it around the north of England so he could learn to play like Eddie). Cochran also made four appearances on Granada TV's *Boy Meet Girl*. Taking advantage of a two-week gap in the schedule, Cochran, his fiancée Sharon Sheeley and Gene Vincent planned to fly back to the States after appearing in Bristol. On the way to Heathrow, their car crashed and Cochran was thrown through the windscreen. He died on 17 April 1960. "Three Steps To Heaven" was released posthumously and reached No 1 in Britain.

Jerry Capehart later managed the singer Glen Campbell and the impressionist Frank Gorshen, who played the Riddler in the *Batman* television series. He also worked as a marine surveyor and studied to become an attorney. But he was always happy to talk about Cochran.

"Eddie was one of the innovators of rock 'n' roll. He set standards that people are still trying to achieve," Capehart said in 1991.

Capehart was diagnosed with brain cancer a month before his death in Nashville, where he had gone to pitch a new song called "Summertime Blues No 2".

Pierre Ferrone

Jerry Neil Capehart, songwriter and manager: born 1929; married (two sons); died Nashville, Tennessee 7 June 1998.

Karl-Josef Hering

KARL-JOSEF Hering, the German actor renowned above all for his portrayal of Siegfried in Wagner's *Ring*, originally intended to pursue a business career. He took up singing "just for a lark", but became serious about it when his voice developed heroic proportions.

After gaining experience in Hannover and Krefeld, Hering was engaged in 1966 by the Deutsche Oper, Berlin, and remained with the company until 1979, when ill-health forced him to retire. He then became landlord of the Fischerhain, an old and well-known hostel-

ry in the Zehlendorf district of Berlin. There he frequently entertained his guests with a song.

Hering was born in Westphalia, and had already begun commercial training when he started to study with Franz Volker, a German tenor famous for his Wagnerian roles. Hering also studied with Max Lorenz, another heroic tenor. He made his debut in 1958 in Hanover, where he progressed from the First Prisoner in *Fidelio* to Florestan, the hero of Beethoven's opera. In 1964 he moved to Krefeld and in 1966 to Berlin, where one of

his earlier roles was Max in *Der Freischütz*.

In October the same year he made his Covent Garden debut as Siegfried in *Götterdämmerung*; everyone admired his voice, the kind of heroic tenor not heard in London for many years - older opera lovers even invoked the name of Lauritz Melchior in comparison - but his lack of stage experience and stiff acting were also commented upon.

In Berlin the following April, Hering first sang the young Siegfried, and it became immediately obvious that he had found his perfect role. Near-

ly two metres tall (around 6ft 5in) and broad to match, the tenor effortlessly conveyed the thoughtless, badly behaved child that lies at the heart of Siegfried, while his "big, never-falling voice unites melody and words with complete naturalness", as the late Arthur Jacobs wrote, continuing, "I really enjoy his Siegfried." So did I, quite enormously, when Hering sang both Siegfrieds at Covent Garden in September 1968.

Meanwhile Hering was rapidly acquiring new roles. He sang Pedro in *Nieftand* at the Vienna Volksoper, Parsifal in Marseilles and, in 1968,

Erik in *Der fliegende Holländer* in Berlin. He visited Buenos Aires the same year, to sing Andres in *Wozzeck* and Max. He added Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Aegisthus in *Elektra* and Hermann in *The Queen of Spades* to his Deutsche Oper repertoire, and in 1970 returned to Covent Garden for both Siegfrieds in what turned out to be his final visit.

Siegfried in *Die Walküre* took him across the Berlin Wall to the Staatsoper, while he made guest appearances all over Germany, usually as Siegfried, which he also sang in Toronto. Hering was made a Berlin

Kammersänger in 1974; his final new role at the Deutsche Oper was the Drum Major in *Wozzeck*, a character for which his gigantic stature well suited him. His retirement at the age of 50 because of ill-health was a great loss to opera. At any time there are very few tenors who can sing Siegfried; hardly any of them can sing the role the way Hering did.

Elizabeth Forbes

Karl-Josef Hering, opera singer and innkeeper: born Westphalia 14 February 1929; died Berlin 20 May 1998.



Hering in *Götterdämmerung*

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'We have the potential for a Bosnia-style situation'

Continued from page one
to ignite the troubles; the new ones meant the hard-won levels of nationalist acceptability vanished overnight.

Nationalist confidence in the police plummeted, official surveys finding that two-thirds of Catholics believed the RUC treated Protestants better than Catholics. Eighty-two per cent of Catholics wanted the force reformed, replaced or disbanded.

The man chosen to usher in a new era of policing in Northern Ireland is former Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten. As head of a commission set up under the Good Friday agreement, his task is to provide Northern Ireland with what it has always lacked, a police service supported by all sides. The one-nation Tory is being asked to reconcile Ireland's two nations.

The task is certain to provide as many pitfalls and difficult moments as his oriental exploits. Getting it right will help to make a historic new start in Ireland: getting it wrong could sow seeds that might condemn future generations to renewed conflict.

The old Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times", seems to have fallen on Patten during the Seventies, and is still in force. Back then he was spoken of as a future leader of the Conservative Party, but the fates were not kind, conjuring up as they did Margaret Thatcher.

His moisture content being too high for her, he was consigned to the same desert as

other wets, and for a long stretch confined to minor office. What in other decades might have been an inexorable ascent towards the highest offices instead became a slow and comparatively undemanding journey through the Northern Ireland Office, overseas development and so on.

Even promotion to the Environment Ministry brought with it a fresh curse – the poll tax. Mrs Thatcher was surprised when Patten was one of those who advised her that she had to go, dismissing him as she did as "a man of the Left". The end of the Thatcher years seemed to promise a new era for Patten, but his part in the 1992 Major election victory was accompanied by the personally catastrophic loss of his own seat.

After his time at the Northern Ireland Office, Patten will already be aware of the complexities of the brief. It is evident that the essence of his task lies not in the technicalities of policing but its role at the heart of Northern Ireland's problems. The RUC, for all its sacrifices, for all the things it has done right, is seen as one-sided in its composition and, at defining moments, in its actions.

It is the same problem that has dogged Northern Ireland itself, and which this government is now addressing through the peace process. On the agenda is not just a new form of policing, but a new Northern Ireland.

Policing reform is embedded in the Good Friday agree-

ment. So, too, are reviews of security arrangements, emergency legislation and the overall criminal justice system including the prosecution process and the appointment of judges; and so are the questions of prisoner release and arms de-commissioning.



Chris Patten, left, and Ronnie Flanagan

Add to this new administrative arrangements, which will probably put Sinn Féin into government as well as creating new north-south links, and the scope of the envisaged change becomes clear. This is the creation of a whole new political order.

This is presumably why the Government believes Patten's political background and Far Eastern experience fits the bill. He has brainpower, experience of adversity and, perhaps most of all, he comes from the now slightly old-fashioned tradition of classic Tory gradual reformers.

His closest associate on the new commission is likely to be his friend Dr Maurice Hayes, a former civil servant with whom he worked in Belfast. In his memoirs Hayes describes Patten as "probably

the best minister I ever worked with, with a Rolls-Royce mind and great political astuteness". Both are Catholics; both are on the board of this newspaper. At a press conference last week, Patten made clear that no members of the commission would be



commenting on their work. Patten's time at the NIO means he returns to Belfast with some baggage. Last time round some Unionists took exception to his Catholicism, while some of them were enraged when he allowed the second-largest city council to change its name from Londonderry to Derry.

The fact that a Unionist politician threw a tricou at him in protest against the name-change will serve as a reminder of the potency of symbol. While most in the RUC accept it is destined to shrink, the force is deeply devoted to its symbols, treasuring the Union flag and other emblems and cherishing the "Royal" in its title. Any attempt to change that name will meet fierce opposition.

Size is important, but the issue of how big the police force should be immediately reopens political questions. The RUC has 8,500 regular officers, 4,300 reservists and 2,700 civilian support staff. It seems obvious enough that the numbers can be reduced by running down the reserve and relying on natural wastage.

But finding the optimum level will take fine judgement. Everyone hopes for peace, but there is no guarantee that the IRA and loyalist ceasefires will be permanent; and even if they are, there are maverick minor groupings out there, on both sides.

Then there is public order. A new Northern Ireland may be in the making but a resolution of the old marching disputes has yet to be found. A senior police figure said of Drumcree 96: "We were on the brink of all-out civil war. We did ourselves that we live in a democracy – we have the potential in this community to have a Bosnia-style situation."

That is a sobering reminder that Northern Ireland is not totally stable. Both communities are at the beginning of the process of working out how to co-exist. There will have to be enough police in reserve to deal with sudden eruptions of disorder.

Once the question of the size of the police force has been resolved, its composition comes into focus. The trick here will be to reduce its overall strength while bringing in a sizeable number of nationalists to make it a more representative force.

In turning to Patten, the Government seems to want a blueprint for gradual but far-reaching reform, for a plan that will be innovative without being disruptive. Not for the first time, New Labour is finding merit in Old Tory values.

But getting nationalists in appears inevitably to mean getting Protestants out. For a new force of say, 6,000 officers to be representative, 2,000 or so should be nationalists. A quick sum shows this would mean displacing 4,400 of the present regular RUC, as well as all the reservists. The dangers of this are enough to give the most ardent reformer pause, for the last thing anybody wants is large numbers of disgruntled RUC men thrown on the streets.

Then there is RUC ethos. One expert has described its culture as "stubbornly male, Protestant, British, Unionist and laddish". Thirty per cent of Catholics in its ranks say they have experienced religious discrimination or harassment, while half its female members say they have suffered sexual harassment. It sounds as though the new force will need a new ethos.

The Government, in choosing Patten to examine all of this and in giving him very wide terms of reference, appears to be signalling that it believes widespread change is essential. A police force that is heavily Protestant, heavily armed, highly technological and largely geared to fighting an anti-terrorist war will be out of place in a more peaceful Northern Ireland.

In turning to Patten, the Government seems to want a blueprint for gradual but far-reaching reform, for a plan that will be innovative without being disruptive. Not for the first time, New Labour is finding merit in Old Tory values.

Are you aware of Awareness Week?

HAVE YOU checked your diary today? To save you the trouble, it's Pink Lady Day, the last day of British Speciality Food Month, day four of Anti Angling Week, Relief of Glaucoma Week and Green Transport Week.

It doesn't take much to merit a special day, week or month nowadays. Ramblers, naturalists, biscuit dunkers and prunes are honoured, as are the left-handed, diabetics and people who snore. There's even a National Kevin Day (in honour of Kevin Costner, in case you didn't know).

Ridiculous. And now the PR "experts" responsible for turning what was once a clever idea into a tedious epidemic think so too. In what must be the apotheosis of this Nineties marketing fad, this week was also designated Awareness Campaign Week.

"The number of these awareness campaigns and the growing use of them by marketers to sell products risks confusing and boring consumers – the very people these organisations are so desperate to reach," says Robert Barclay, managing director of The Profile Group, a PR-based consultancy which publishes forward events listings. He has launched Awareness Campaign Week – you've guessed it, to raise awareness about the potential problem of too many awareness weeks.

He insists there is a serious message behind the initiative. Awareness campaigns, first developed by Christian Aid in 1957, were traditionally used by charities with limited budgets to publicise a good cause. By bagging a particular day or week, they invented a hook for the news media to address a worthy issue. It was, of course, completely free. And by picking dates during the "silly season" summer months, media coverage was virtually guaranteed as desperate news editors eagerly pounced on anything that was going on.

Never ones to miss a trick, marketing experts in big business quickly joined in, and along came National Breakfast Week "supported by" Kellogg's, Quaker's Oats, Porridge Day and Chip Week – courtesy of those nice people at the Potato Marketing Board.

More than 375 awareness days, weeks and months will take place this year – twice the number staged two years ago. And now it looks as if the notion

of awareness days may have become too popular. Response among the potential audience for these campaigns is decidedly mixed. Not only is there widespread confusion about just what's going on when and why, there's also a distinct scepticism about the value of many manufactured events.

In a random poll of a dozen people, 11 had never heard of Pink Lady Day while the other thought it was about drinking gin. (In fact it's a marketing wheeze to launch an Australian apple in the UK.)

"I'm aware of things like Red Nose Day and Breast Cancer Week but all the other rubbish goes right over my head," says Angela, 34, a recruitment consultant from west London. "Meaningless puff" is her flatmate Mary's conclusion. "I don't need a topless model to tell me to eat prunes – if I want to eat them I will." Both add that attention deflected away from a good cause by trivia and commercialism is a bad thing.

Mr Barclay agrees: "PR and marketers should act now to safeguard the charities and other organisations whose messages are non-commercial." He advocates an official register to encourage commercial interests to pitch their marketing weight behind rather than against charity campaigns to avoid upsetting like the one caused by Wonderbra when it hijacked Breast Cancer Awareness Week.

"We have to separate in people's minds the serious causes from the lightweight," Mr Barclay adds. "Very clear plugs are easy to spot but there are a number of serious campaigns which have got lost. Journalists are increasingly telling me their editorial policy is now to cover less of these campaigns because there are so many."

A formal register would also encourage organisations to guard against unfortunate clashes of events, which has been a bit of a problem. Next year, for example, National Parenting Day coincides with the beginning of National Condom Week.

All of which might solve the PR people's problem – and then again, it might not. While the professionals still view such stunts as a powerful communications tool, many consumers feel they've had their day.

MEG CARTER

CAMPAIGNS IN JUNE

(QUALITY BRITISH TURKEY MONTH)

June 1-6
National Vegetarian Week
Pensioners' Day of Action
National Arts Day
British Speciality Food Month
Pink Lady Day
Grow Your Own Organic Fruit and Vegetable Campaign
National Focus on Food Week

June 7 week
Armenia - A Day to Pray
World Naturalist Day
Arthritis Research Week
National Diabetes Day
National Cinema Day

June 15-19
Green Transport Week
National Anti Angling Week
British Speciality Food Month
For the Relief of Glaucoma Week
Spinal Injuries Awareness Week
Awareness Campaign Week

June 22-27
Twins, Triplets and More Week
Child Safety Week
Minerals Week

National Menap Week
Pensioners' Day of Action
National Arts Day
United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
International Anti Arm Trade Week
RNLI National Lifeboat Station Open Day
Family Rambling Day
National Piers Day
National Focus on Food Week (sponsored by Waitrose)

July 24-31 National Ice Cream Week (sponsored by the ice cream alliance) clashes with National Pottery Training Week

October 1 is McVitie's National Dunking Day and National Continence Day

On 13 November National Curry Day clashes with Oxfam's Big Fast
Source: The Profile Group

If you don't want to know, forget the scan

THERE'S A politically correct answer here. Of course we don't want to know, not because we don't want to know but because we honestly don't care. No, honestly, we don't care. No, as long as it's healthy that's all we mind about.

So perhaps the first question after the birth should be: is the baby healthy? And the second question: what sex is it? Or perhaps, to be entirely politically correct, the midwife should refuse to answer the question of whether it's a boy or a girl, and put the baby into her arms. It would be very un-PC to peer down between its legs and take a peek. You'd have to wait until you changed its nappy before you casually discovered what sex it was, and even then the coolest mum on the ward would be the one who would take the baby home, hand it to a nanny, and never discover what sex her child was until suddenly its voice broke or it started growing boobs at 12.

There's a historically correct answer here, too. For a million years, parents have never known what sex their child is going to be until it's born. Finding out in advance is in-



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE
DILEMMAS

Carol is pregnant and preparing to go for her second scan. Her boyfriend wants to know the sex of the baby – he hates to think the hospital knows and he doesn't – but Carol wants it to be a surprise. What can they do?

terfering with nature. God didn't plan things that way. So stick to the old methods.

But the truth is that God didn't invent the telephone or the Internet, yet it would only be the most Luddite of people who refused to communicate in these ways on the grounds that it wasn't natural. And since scans are here, what do we do?

My sympathies, being a control freak, are with Carol's boyfriend. I would just hate a handful of white-coated strangers to know the sex of my child while I was kept in the dark. I would feel they had a closer relationship with the baby than I myself, its parent. And I would also like to know on the grounds that it would bring me closer to the baby before it was born. The more I could imagine it as a person rather than an "it", the fonder I would become of it. Knowing the sex of the child would make the choosing of names easier, too. What's the point of having two rows with one's partner over the choice of names when you need only have one?

I know the scan is not done purely to find out the sex of the child and is done for health reasons. But if the

information is there, I would want to use it. Not so that I could design the nursery as pink instead of blue, but because it would feel cosier and closer to feel I had a little girl in my womb or a little boy. As for being politically correct, it's so much nonsense. You may not care a jot which sex you have, but once you know, your attitude to the child changes, inevitably. Mothers who have tried to bring up little boys with dolls and little girls with guns, have all failed miserably. Sex will out.

If you could take health tests that would predict exactly what diseases you would get during the following year, some of which would be preventable, would you want to know? If you did, you'd take the test. If you didn't, you wouldn't. What you wouldn't do is have the test and ask the hospital not to tell you the results.

My advice to Carol is simple. Contrary to popular belief, ante-natal scans are not compulsory. If she decides to have one, find out. But if she wants the sex of the baby to be a secret, don't have the scan. That way, both she and her boyfriend will be happy.

What readers say:
WHEN WE were expecting our third child, I remember this: if the hospital knew the baby's gender, my husband wanted to; and if he was going to, in the end so was I. We already had two daughters. Knowing that the new baby was a girl, too, enabled us to turn our minds in that direction. By the time she was born we'd become comfortable with the idea and we'd never be parents of a son. Perhaps Carol's husband badly wants a child of the other gender, a pigeon pair. Perhaps, consciously or subconsciously, he wants to have dealt with any disappointment in advance of the remaining period surrounding the birth. That would be the effect, anyway. It might be imaginative to concede, in the interests of a proper welcome for your newborn: ALISON CLAYBOURNE, Reigate

CAROL'S HUSBAND should stop being so selfish and let his wife have her way on this. Knowing the sex of your child before birth will only create false expectations

about how it should behave and what you will do. What's more, the hospital might be wrong – it has happened. Ultrasound technicians are perfectly schooled at not giving away the baby's sex. Why upset your wife to please yourself? Perhaps it's symptomatic of modern life to want to know everything immediately – will you want the hospital to ring you on your mobile phone and call you out of that planning meeting with the results? Be honest; you have a preference for the sex of the baby (a boy, I'll wager), and you hope this will confirm it. What if it's a girl? You'll mope throughout the pregnancy. A baby is not just its sex; there's a whole personality developing in there. Let it all remain a secret until the birth – because I can guarantee you that you'll be delighted with everything about your child then. And yes, I do speak from experience. DAVID ROBERTS, London NW

MANY COUPLES feel like Carol and prefer surprises, while others prefer to know, so that they are

well prepared in advance, particularly if they are longing for a child of a particular sex and can prepare for one of the undesired sex at a time not coloured by the maternal "blues" which often follow childbirth. In this instance each party holds the opposite of these two opinions; I wonder if she might think again, if it were pointed out to her that having a scan is just as "unnatural" as knowing the baby's sex in advance! DR A W F ERSKINE, London NW2

AT THE Chelsea and Westminster hospital in London, around 60-70 per cent of women want to know the sex of their child. Obviously a scan is not primarily done to determine this – it is done for health reasons. If couples can't agree on whether they want to be told or not, we ask them to resolve the problem themselves and usually it is the woman who is the key person in decision making. In the vast majority of cases we would never tell on one and not the other. DR ZOE DUNN, Consultant Obstetrician

Bermuda's crime-free good life has been shattered by the death of Liz Cadell. Now friends are asking: did her boyfriend ignore her cries for help? And could he have saved her?

By Sharon Krum

Among those who know, or believe they know, Bermuda is shorthand for the good life. Sun. Crystal blue water. Vanilla-coloured sand. Tax haven. Sixty thousand residents, and barely a crime. A slice of paradise colonised by Britain, complete with Marks & Spencer, red letter boxes, and a pub called the Robin Hood.

Talk about Bermuda with any one of her 8,000 British expatriates and you will also hear nothing but enthusiasm. For ambitious bankers, journalists, and businessmen prepared to work hard, there are glistering rewards. The career trajectory can be rapid, particularly for British journalists, a successful stint on Bermuda's daily newspaper *The Royal Gazette* is often viewed as a stepping stone to Fleet Street.

Berkshire-born Liz Cadell knew this when she arrived in Bermuda in 1988 to work on the *Gazette* and its sister weekly, *The Mid Ocean News*. Regarded as bright, smart and ebullient, Cadell, a keen sports-woman, was also considered a sharp reporter and sub-editor. "She was very down to earth, pragmatic, a lot of fun," said a colleague who asked not to be identified. "I sat next to Liz for a few years. She was a very vivacious girl. I never saw a darker side, and in the newspaper business you work very closely."

She appeared that way to everyone who knew her. And yet on May 31 last year Liz Cadell, aged 33, took 150 aspirin and died of an overdose.

Her death followed the end of her engagement to British police officer Tony Bukhari. Last week, just over a year after her death, Bukhari, 32, was charged with manslaughter by negligence.

The woman who made a living writing about the exploits of others became a headline, and the story has been the subject of talk among the tight-knit expat community.

At the core of all discussion is not just the tragic loss of Cadell, but the extraordinary legal issues surrounding the charge against Bukhari. He has not been charged with committing a pre-meditated crime, but rather, failing to act. Police allege that in his failure to respond to Cadell's calls or seek medical help, he is culpable.



The Mid Ocean Golf Club, left, epitomises life in Bermuda; of which Liz Cadell, above and Tony Bukhari, top, were a part David Modell/Katz

A lonely death in paradise

The story of Liz Cadell begins ten years ago, when she arrived in Bermuda to work as a reporter, and carved a name for herself covering sports stories.

Cadell, a keen tennis player and netballer (she captained the *Gazette* tennis team), was, said colleagues, well regarded among the sporting community.

After meeting Bukhari, the Cheshire-born son of a Pakistani father and English mother, she moved in with him in 1991.

"They were a really happy couple," says her *Gazette* colleague, who added that she had never heard, as was subsequently reported, that Liz's relatives did not fully accept him. "The couple were popular, but there weren't part of Bermuda's party-goer scene. They socialised amongst his friends and hers."

The British expat scene functions on two levels in Bermuda: professional class (reporters, bankers, police) and entrepreneurs who relocate to Bermuda as a tax haven.

Among the former, Cadell and Bukhari were well liked. Life for Brits in the UK's oldest colony is

comfortable (although they are touchy about reports which described them as "spoilt"), and despite being 600 miles from the US east coast, Bermuda's culture and economy are quintessentially British.

According to friends, both Bukhari and Cadell felt very at home there, and Bob Anes, a *Gazette* sub-editor and close friend of Cadell's, said the couple were devoted to each other.

"They were very affectionate. I saw them at a party a year before her death and he never left her side. Tony was very attentive to Liz."

Her colleague adds: "When I knew Liz, her relationship with Tony seemed to be going smoothly. There was no trouble until the last year, when it became clear things might not be all she wanted, but then all relationships ebb and flow. I know she wanted to marry Tony, return to London and work in antiques. She did not plan to return to newspapers."

In fact, unbeknown to Bukhari, in the year before her death Cadell began an affair with a *Gazette* colleague. "Most people knew of the af-

fair but tried to keep it quiet because they knew she was living with Tony."

According to a report submitted to the inquest in March 1997, Bukhari learned of the affair after the couple became engaged. "Whilst on holiday in May 1997, Miss Cadell confided to Bukhari that she had been involved in an affair for approximately one year. Bukhari's response was to call off the wedding."

Friends have said that Cadell did become more quiet at work, but they did not ask questions. "I was not aware the wedding was off. She was private about those matters," said Anes.

Then Cadell was found naked and dead in the bedroom of her Harvey Hill Road flat on May 31, with part of the phone cord around her neck. Police records revealed a note was left which read: "I know I've let you down badly, I don't think there is any way I can make it up to you. So perhaps it is best if I disappear and let you get on with your life without me."

When Bukhari was later interviewed by police, he told them he had finished a shift at midnight, gone drinking, then to the home of another friend, where he stayed until 4.30am,

before returning home. He told police that he had woken at 11am, and Cadell had told him she had swallowed 150 aspirin at 8.30am. He advised her to drink salt water and make herself vomit. He said she seemed to have recovered, and they made love at 1pm, after which he went out jogging. In his police statement he said that on his return, Cadell was dead.

It emerged that Cadell had paged Bukhari three times during the night, and he had not responded. At the inquest parts of Bukhari's version of events were disputed.

Dr Valerie Rao, a pathologist with the Dade County Medical Examiner's office in Florida, gave evidence that Bukhari's claim that he made love to Cadell at 1pm could not be correct. "She was dead by one o'clock in the afternoon." And she added signs of aspirin poisoning are obvious. "If she had been taken to the hospital, she could have survived."

The inquest was also told that Bukhari had completed a first aid course and knew not to induce vomiting in cases of overdose.

The court learned that Bukhari

attempted suicide after Cadell's death. Friend and police officer David Allen testified that he rushed Bukhari to hospital earlier this year after he swallowed 40 pills and left a suicide note in his police barracks accusing authorities of "stitching me up".

"Ever since Liz's death he just wasn't his normal self," said his friend. "He used to mention how upset he was. He couldn't believe Liz had done this and he found it difficult to accept that she wasn't going to be around."

Before the inquest concluded however, the Attorney General decided to charge Bukhari with manslaughter by negligence. Bukhari was charged in Hamilton Magistrates Court, bailed on US\$10,000, ordered to surrender his passport, and report to police three times a week. A trial is expected to be scheduled for late in the year.

Unable to return to Britain, Bukhari is also without employment. His lawyer Delroy Duncan confirmed that Bermuda police have not renewed his contract.

Duncan, who is also a British ex-

patriate, said his client's defence rests on the question of whether Bukhari owed Liz Cadell a duty of care in the circumstances. He maintains that Bukhari was not liable, and was therefore not guilty of neglect.

Duncan said today Bukhari is hearing up well, considering he faces up to 20 years in prison for failing to respond to his girlfriend's pages.

"He has been depressed, distraught. He considered their relationship a good one, and he still intended to marry her. He told me he wanted a break, and did intend to renew the relationship."

Cadell, too, had been intending to marry. She had changed her will to make Bukhari the beneficiary to her £200,000 estate. The will was later ruled invalid and her estate goes to her family.

As for the expat community galvanised by this case, they are, despite the busy rumour mill, not taking sides, according to Gary Sheppard, owner of the Robin Hood pub. "I believe the Brits here know there is a discrepancy in the stories, and all they really want to know is the truth."

POETIC LICENCE

Thousands of citizens branded as subversive by MI5 will have the right to see their files when changes to the Data Protection Act become law this autumn. Files held are thought to include those on members of CND, the Trade Unions, The Labour Party and Amnesty.

FILES PAST

I knew someone
Who Knew Someone
Who once joined CND
They kept a file on her
And they kept a file on me
With this they would have reasoned
From information known
She must have been subversive
And so they tapped her phone

She read a lot of books
So they kept a file on that
They filmed her going shopping
And they photographed her cat
And they noted that at Greenham
She wore a woolly hat
So finding this of interest
They filed it all on DAT*

And what I most remember
Around the Thatcher years
Was rampant paranoia
In people with careers
The teachers and the lawyers

And civil servants too:
"They must be tapping me
They might be tapping you."
And when I asked them, Who?
They told me it was MI5
Sometimes GCHQ

How flattering, I marvelled
When ordinary chaps
Are glamorous subversives
And worthy of such taps
But then how disappointing
To read those files they feared
And see: He goes on demos.
He used to have a beard
Is not considered harmful
Attends a Labour Club
He's big on cheap polemic
You'll find him in the pub...

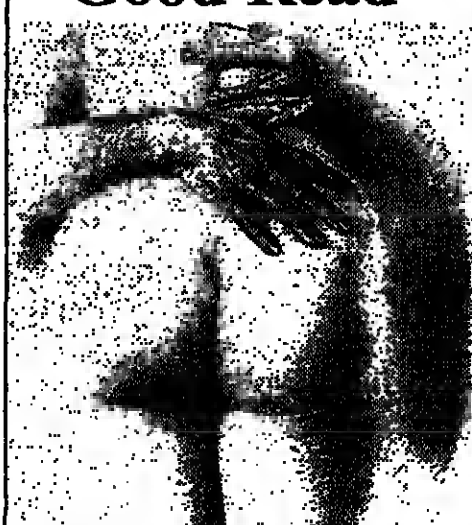
*DAT=digital audio tape

Martin Newell

CLASSIFIED

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"I haven't got what it takes to be a harlot..."
Glenda Cooper, *The Independent*, 11 May 1998

Recently broadsheet newspapers have been examining a rather different kind of journal which has just gone on sale in certain selected newsagents and bookshops: *The Erotic Review*. It has proved so popular that, within a few days, Waterstone's had reordered and the Review had to reprint.

Their correspondents speak about the gritty writing - by contributors such as Auberon Waugh, Michael Bywater, Maria Alvarez and Barry Humphries - and explicit illustrations, some of which are 'seemingly erotic'.

The May/June issue is out now. Bi-monthly and expanded for the first time. As a special offer to independent readers we invite you to subscribe to the next three issues of *The Erotic Review* for just £5.00 including (discreet) p&p and receive this issue free.

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE

COURT: The Guildhall, Kingston Upon Thames
HEARING DATE/TIME: Friday 3 July 1998 at 10am
PREMISES: The Off Licence, 25 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Middlesex UB8 3LJ
APPLICANT: Keith Vincent Deaneham
ADDRESS: 27 Westfield Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 1TS
TRADE OR CALLING: Operations Manager

TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant intends to apply to the Licensing Sessions for the said Division to be held at the place and time shown above for the provisional grant to him of a Justices Licence authorising him to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption off the premises.

DATED: 11 June 1998
PANSNER & CO
Solicitors, 154 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DQ
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicant

RUDDY PIC

The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Clarendon Solicitors, 10-12 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF on 22nd June 1998 at 2.45pm for the purpose of considering the proposed appointment of a Receiver and the proposed appointment of a Liquidator.

Dated this 11th day of June 1998
Clarendon Solicitors
10-12 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicant

ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requesting the same by the undersigned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 11th day of June 1998
Clarendon Solicitors
10-12 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicant

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The fine art of missing the point

**It's fight arranger
Nick Hall's task
to turn *Romeo
and Juliet* into
War and Peace.**

By Louise Levene

"I LEARNED this morning that they want blood." Which is funny, really, because drawing blood is precisely what the fight arranger Nick Hall strives to avoid.

Advance publicity for English National Ballet's all-thrilling, all-dancing *Romeo and Juliet* at the Albert Hall had hinted at dozens of sword-fighters. Hall knocked that on the head straightaway. "We can't have that many, from the point of view of safety." So how many has he got? Er, six: Romeo, Mercutio, Benvolio, Tybalt and Tybalt's two friends. Wait a minute. I didn't think Tybalt had any friends. "They are characters that Derek has created."

"Derek" is Derek Deane, artistic director of ENB. Although freely admitting he's no Balanchine, Deane has realised that if he does the choreography himself he can save ENB a fortune. He has knocked out a series of popular hits. The most recent was his high-glucose *Nutcracker* and before that we had his infamous *Swan Lake* in the round which boasted 60 swans bourrée-ing in formation. This year he's aiming to repeat that popular success with *Romeo and Juliet*. A massed display of synchronised fencing would have been impractical, so we must settle for a handful of ballet dancers eating up space in Nick Hall's carefully choreographed sword fights.

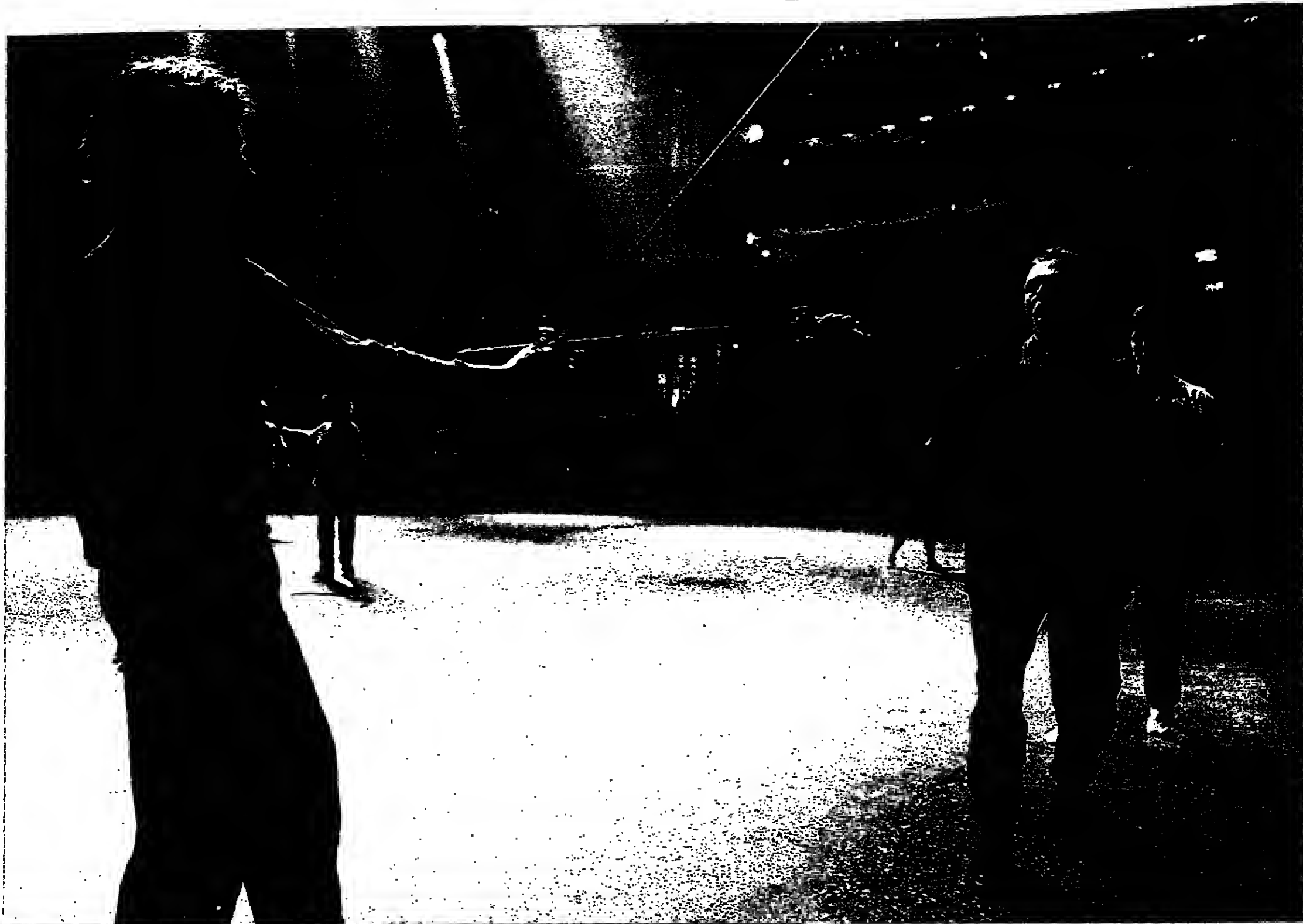
Deane has clearly picked the right man for the job. At 49, Hall looks wiry and dangerous in his black hiker's leathers. He has an impressive record, with the likes of Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Theatre Company, the RSC and the Royal Opera, and some particularly relevant experience at the Manchester Royal Exchange, where he has worked on and off for the last 10 years. This knowledge of theatre in the round has proved invaluable preparation for the Albert Hall: "I learned quite a bit about keeping things moving," he says. But fencing to music was a whole new headache.

In *Romeo and Juliet* Prokofiev really does call the shots. The signature tunes are every bit as clear-cut as *Peter and the Wolf* and the score spells out the scenario. "In the theatre I generally talk to the director, then create the fight with the actors based on character. Here the music dictates; there's very little leeway at all. You can cut across it here and there, but even that only works if you stay with it the rest of the time."

The dancers can't work without music: "Normally you work it out very slowly - walk it, walk it, walk it - but that's not the most comfortable way for dancers to work. They want to hear the music as soon as possible - often before they know all the moves."

Even without the music there is a world of difference between a regular stage fight and a ballet fight. The trend in Shakespearean and Jacobean rap has been away from the regimented thrust-and-parry of the old school towards a looser, uglier, more realistic style: "It's much more like warfare."

In the old days actors knew the moves off by heart: "Routines were handed down: the 'Glasgow Eight' was a series of eight moves - back-hand shoulder, parry shoulder etc. - then you'd repeat it reversing the moves. People would say 'We'll do



Nick Hall instructs two dancers from the cast of *Romeo & Juliet*, opening tonight at the Royal Albert Hall, in the art of sword-fighting

Rui Xavier

the 8s, then the 10s, then the 7s. These corny old sequences were safe, but incredibly predictable and not terribly exciting."

That said, too much rough and tumble would be inappropriate in a ballet fight. Musical swashbuckling is necessarily more stylised and variety is less important. "In ballet, repetition is not necessarily a bad thing, and you have to keep it simple" - particularly when you have a different cast every night and only three-and-a-half weeks' rehearsal.

When he directed the fights in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Royal Exchange, Hall worked with the same four men throughout; at ENB nightly cast changes mean that he's working with 20 dancers. A single torn ligament can throw the entire casting schedule out of whack and create unexpected problems: "One of the Mercutios is very short, and the Tybalts are all shapes and sizes."

Fortunately dancers are adaptable, movement-literate performers who are well used to memorising complicated enchainements. Although competitive fencing is no longer a compulsory part of the ballet curriculum, the basic moves come quite naturally to them. In a "linear advance" (those scurrying runs when one swordsman chases another across the stage while trying to poke him with a rapier) the fencer should keep his feet well apart so that he can move easily in any direction. A dancer's "turn-out" the

splay-footed stance acquired after years of training) is ideal for this. "The most important things in a fight are balance and timing, and they are terrific at that. We have taken advantage of their athleticism: ask them to leap and suddenly - swoosh! - they're 5ft in the air."

As any Saturday-afternoon couch potato knows, no sword fight would be complete without a serious bit of furniture-jumping. Mercutio will be doing a back somersault onto a market stall, but apart from this the Albert Hall is not well served in the table-turning department - "there's not a great deal of set, and no levels" - which means, sadly, no staircase duel à la Basil Rathbone and Errol Flynn in *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. Rathbone, whose career began on the British stage, grew up in a tradition where fencing was part of an actor's basic training and was an accomplished swordsman but - as Hall is quick to point out - "a lot of those Hollywood actors could do it, but they still had fight directors and fencing coaches."

Fencing is still taught in drama schools (Hall himself teaches at the Central School of Speech and Drama and at the E15 acting school) but it is less relevant than it was. The days when every young actor earned his spurs doing years of Shakespeare in rep are long gone - elegant swordplay is unlikely to land anyone a bit part in *EastEnders*. Besides, the likes of Nick Hall can always be

called in to train performers from scratch.

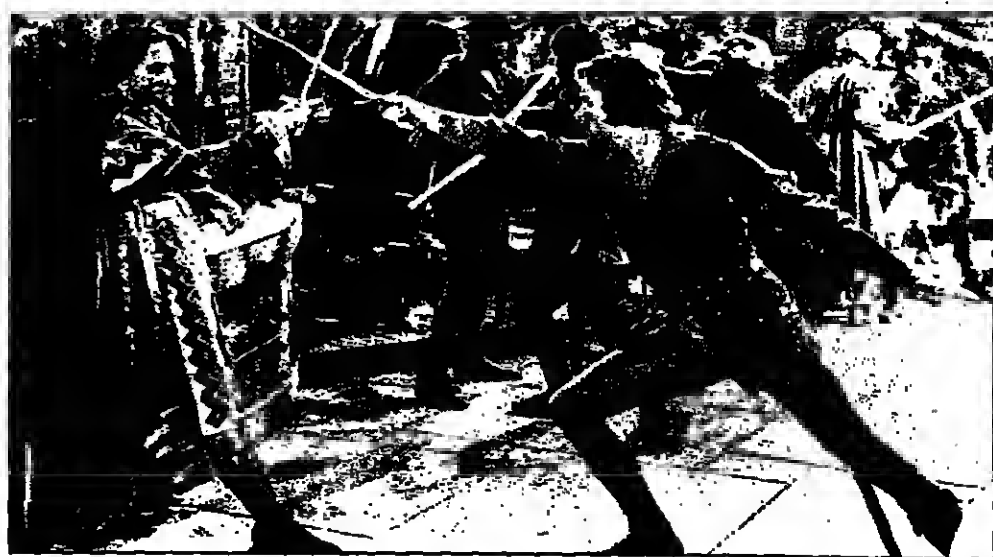
He's not alone, of course. There's a whole guild, the British Academy of Dramatic Combat, whose aim is to promote good technique and, more important, safety. Even with dummy blades things can get pretty nasty. Only last year the Royal Ballet's William Trevitt had a chunk sliced off his knuckle during the duel in *Romeo and Juliet*. Did he rush to the wings to get some Steri-strips and a squeeze of Germolene? Did he yell? He carried on regardless, brandishing his bloodstained fist at the victorious Tybalt.

Blood certainly makes great theatre - hence Derek Deane's decision to add to the laundry bill. "Derek said he wanted it to be brutal and vicious, so we're trying for a degree of realism."

It turns out that Prokofiev's music for the fight scenes is firmly anchored in the grisly realities of combat. When Mercutio is stabbed by Tybalt he recovers suddenly and does a little dance. This had always seemed a bit daft to me, but apparently this is exactly how rapier wounds behave: "The flesh tends to close around the blade. There's quite often a short delay before the blood starts to flow." Hall's job is to make sure that tonight's bloodstains are all strictly ketchup.

Romeo and Juliet, Royal Albert Hall (0171-589 8212), to 30 June

GREAT SWASHBUCKLERS OF THE MOVIES



1. *Romeo and Juliet* (Franco Zeffirelli 1968) The fights were arranged by William Hobbs, to whom all fight arrangers owe a debt of gratitude. His fights were far more realistic for the weapons concerned (rapier and dagger). Quite often, a fight will use moves that are not possible with that style of weapon - much of the choreography is based on modern fencing sabre moves. A lot of Hollywood film fights were arranged by people who were very adroit with the sabre. Not authentic, but very entertaining.
2. *The Duellists* (Richard Scott 1977) A long series of duels fought with sabre between two army officers (Keith Carradine and Harvey Keitel).
3. *The Pirate* (Vincenzo Minnelli 1948). Gene Kelly did a great sequence, across the rocks into the sea. It was a feat of endurance, even breaking it down into several takes means a lot of hard work.
4. *Royal Flash* (Richard Lester 1975). A lovely fight, with great gags. Alan Bates is making a sandwich during the fight - cutting a bit off a sausage, a bit off the bread. A great comedy fight by William Hobbs.
5. *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (William Keighley and Michael Curtiz 1938). I love Basil Rathbone (above left): you really believe he's going for it. That's what makes a good fight: when they believe they can kill each other.

Life's a gas for the laid-back doctor

"DRAMATIC IT isn't," wrote my colleague Robert Maycock a decade ago of a concert sketch Gavin Bryars composed for *Doctor Ox's Experiment*, based on a little-known Jules Verne story. After a further year's delay owing to funding crises, the opera received its world premiere at the Coliseum on Monday. The composer's style having apparently settled itself in for the duration as the ultimate in laid-back nonchalance, could its melancholy melodies and smoochy jazz harmonies sustain an evening in the theatre?

Bryars is nothing if not canny; he also has an operatic treatment of *Medea* with Robert Wilson behind him. Verne's tale - of mayhem brought to the Flemish town of Quinquedone by a scientist, Doctor Ox, through his efforts to energise its previously lethargic citizens by dosing them with a mysterious "oxy-hydric" gas - is a very clever choice, if these days making a rather obvious parable. It gives the composer every justification for filling most of the first act

OPERA
DR OX'S EXPERIMENT
COLISEUM
LONDON

with music sometimes so laid-back that it's propped up only by the wit and characterful colours of Blake Morrison's text and some well-upholstered orchestration.

For almost an hour, the guilelessness of Quinquedone is broken only by the rising tide of the machinations of Ox and his somewhat unwilling assistant, Ygene. An expert at conjuring fresh timbres from his fairly modest vocal as well as orchestral resources, Bryars makes his two pairs of lovers counter-tenors and high sopranos, and underpins the opera's love interest with the lazy, crazy sounds of an amplified jazz double bass. These effective plays could surely have been further enhanced by making more of the "early music" sounds spearheaded by the oboe d'amore. But as Ox, a tenor, the excellent Bonaventura Bottone boldly took on

the main responsibility for enlivening the proceedings. (Thank goodness the composer eventually decided against using Tom Waits).

The surprise is that Bryars makes such a success of the ensuing action, which demands, and receives, quicker changes of mood and tempo and the establishment of a real dramatic momentum. Act One ends with a fast-forward staging of Act Four of *Les Huguenots* (a performer of which is the subject of Ox's first experiment), in which Meyerbeer's original is pulverised to splendid effect. And in the much shorter Act Two - in which decadence and violence get their comeuppance - Bryars offers genuinely dramatic variety and control of pace as well as atmosphere. Outside the Meyerbeer spoof, I wasn't sure what he was up to with a score whose approach to quotation and irony in a somewhat fin-de-siècle 19th-century context is rather elliptical. But the results, oddly compelling in the theatre, work much better than do some of the composer's recent concert pieces.



David James and Valdine Anderson

Laurie Lewis

Atom Egoyan's production deals imaginatively with all this, his slender physical resources - a few ladders, some ropes, little more than a kind of electric fire to conjure up Ox's equipment - enhanced by some plant and evocative ensemble work (from chorus as well as solo singers) and, notably, by Rick Fisher's evocative lighting to supply a suitably ambiguous

range of narrative modes. Sandy Powell's costumes for the townsfolk resemble bedsprings, but perhaps that's appropriate. Amidst a sterling cast, David James and Valdine Anderson as the main lovers must also receive particular mention. In the pit, James Holmes secured strong vocal and orchestral contributions.

KERRI POTTER

Rap's coming home

POP
DE LA SOUL
JAZZ CAFÉ
LONDON

RAP SO long the thief of black music's fertile heritage, has suddenly discovered it has a history all its own. What else could explain the resurgence of all things hip hop?

High-street shops are groaning with *haute couture* evolutions of track suits and trainers last seen in East Coast America's dodgiest housing projects, and those old school warriors, Run DMC, only recently relinquished their stranglehold on the charts with Beastie Boys collaborator Jason Nevins.

It would be tempting, then, to look to one of rap's longest-standing and most innovative acts to preside over this rejuvenation. De La Soul's 1989 album *3 Feet High and Rising* was the form's high point, a jokey, intuitive classic, every bit as characteristic of the year as the Stone Roses' eponymous debut across the Atlantic.

De La Soul are playing the Jazz Café, London NW1, tonight and tomorrow. This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper.

True to the prevailing mood in hip hop, the trio mounted a rootsy, stripped-down show last night. Free of flowery imagery, they performed with a grand piano propping up their record decks. Rap, they seemed to be saying, is coming home.

Posdunus, Dove and Mace were joined by another rapper and this addition seemed to sum up their refreshing attitude. De La Soul - while they've learnt how to party - still appeal to your better nature. The quartet rattled

through *3ft High and Rising*, not to get their best known hits ("Me, Myself and I" and "Hey, How Ya Doin'") out of the way, but to get feet moving.

The fundamentals of hip-hop performance were there: the crowd participation, the good-time rhetoric. But they are still the only rap group you would take your mum to see.

In a sly dig at the misogyny notoriously peddled by Prodigy, De La Soul showed their liberal credentials: "Smack my bitch up? I never did it." It's hard to believe this vibrant bunch were responsible for the mordant "Stakes is High". If De La Soul sound like social workers who found a microphone, they aren't. Other groups - Arrested Development and A Tribe Called Quest - inherited De La Soul's original intelligence, a succession that seems to suit them.

De La Soul are playing the Jazz Café, London NW1, tonight and tomorrow. This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper.

MIKE HIGGINS

FILM

The angel who fell to earth

THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

CITY OF ANGELS
DIRECTOR: BRAD SILBERLING
STARRING: NICOLAS CAGE,
MEG RYAN, DENNIS FRANZ
RUNNING TIME: 114 MINS

NOW THAT PLANS for Tim Burton's stab at a Superman film have been indefinitely postponed, it looks like Nicolas Cage will be denied the chance to wear his underpants outside his trousers (though if he chooses to exercise this right in the privacy of his own home, that's no concern of mine). For the time being, his role in *City of Angels* will provide some consolation. Although the picture cites Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire* as its progenitor, the real inspiration for the film's dramatic dilemma lies in a far less prestigious source. When Seth, the angel played by Cage, puzzles over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman, he's following in the footsteps of the Man of Steel, who turned in all that saving-the-world poppycock to go shopping for household nick-nacks with Lois Lane in *Superman II*.

Seth's experiences aren't a whole lot different from Superman's; he too is introduced to mortality with a sound thrashing, and gazes in astonishment at the blood which pearls on a fresh wound. It's fitting that the picture should echo such low-brow entertainment, because it always struck you that *Wings of Desire* would have been more tolerable as a vulgar Hollywood tearjerker than as a sombre European art movie. What innocent pleasures it did offer were contained in Wenders' use of a divided Germany as the backdrop to a tug-of-love between heaven and earth. Los Angeles, where *City of Angels* is set, doesn't carry the imposing history of Berlin, though the location is appropriate in other ways. For instance, if you're going to swap perfection for fallibility, you may as well do it in L.A. And though the city might not be cleaved in two by a wall, it has its own divisions, its own haves and have nots, as anyone who has tried to land a table at Spago will readily attest.

The film doesn't make a very convincing case for L.A. as a spiritual playground, but it has a go. The angels who frequent the city mope around in 7-Elevens, stride across rooftop helipads or perch on scaffolding, kicking their heels. In one splendidly indulgent shot, there's even a few of them milling about on the "Hollywood" sign. At dusk, they all congregate on the beach in silent prayer, an image which is supposed to be lyrical but prompted



He's played an alcoholic, a vampire and even Cher's boyfriend, so why shouldn't Nic Cage cut it as an angel?



Down to earth: Ryan and Cage in 'City of Angels'

thoughts of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. All told, there doesn't seem much of a case to be made for angelic status. The pluses are negligible. You get a regulation black overcoat. You're not subject to fines for overdue library books. And you can travel at the speed of thought, which would be handy unless you were Charlie Sheen, in which case it would take an eternity to get downtown and back.

As an angel, you can also dip into people's minds. The device of internal eavesdropping has to some extent been devalued by over-familiarity in the 11 years between *Wings of Desire* and *City of Angels*, in which time it has been appropriated by pop videos, Gillian Weir's photographic collection *Signs That Say What You Want Them to Say*, and an ad for a nutty snack-bar. And besides, the extras in the movie are all so maddeningly virtuous that they take the fun out of mind-reading. One young fellow is caught thinking "When a woman decides to sleep with a man, there is no wall she won't scale". A date with him would be a real whizz. Another chap, held at gunpoint, thinks "I'll never get to see my grand-children". Nobody here curses; no one grapples with unchecked passions. It's as though L.A. is trying to reinvent itself in the image of Walton-on-the-Hill. You'd never guess that this city had been home to the Simpsons, Don and O.J., that is.

In the role of Maggie, the mortal who tempts Seth down from the clouds, Meg Ryan fits perfectly into this airbrushed L.A. Maggie is a surgeon who plays Jimi Hendrix tapes while she operates, and devotes her lunchbreak not to a quick tag on the stairwell but to a tour of incubators. After failing to resuscitate a patient, Maggie starts entertaining philosophical questions, though only in the same casual manner that she weighs up whether to use jalapeno or rosemary olive oil. Looking into Seth's eyes with an expression that is either love or bad wind, she whines "I don't understand the god who could let us meet when there's no way we could be together." Never mind Auschwitz or Hiroshima: Maggie is mad at God for having decreed that she must wander the aisles of Ikea alone.

Ryan's kookiness has been toned down for the part; now her line readings work on you like anaesthetic instead of shock treatment. Her curls are fixed in place, and her expression of bemused wonderment seems lacquered too. Nicolas Cage might seem a peculiar choice to play a walking embodiment of goodness, but if the genre can countenance George Burns as the Creator in the *Oh God!* films, then there's room for an actor who has been cast as a vampire, an alcoholic and even Cher's boyfriend. So it's doubly disappointing that, for the first time in his career, Cage seems caged. There's a chilly tinge to his early appearances, as you realise that his arrival signifies imminent death, the way Jack Palance always used to, but Cage hasn't been directed to do anything more than swing his morose Bassett Hound features from side to side. Only once does he burrow deeper, with a yearning gaze which perfectly captures the frustration of a man who can watch a woman bathing, and even time into her fantasies about him, and yet not even feel her skin under his fingertips.

The director Brad Silberling has made one previous picture, *Casper*, which was also about people reconciling themselves to mortality. But that was a children's film, and Silberling hasn't noticeably adjusted his approach for *City of Angels*. He still sees death as a state where you are simply on one side of a glass partition as opposed to the other. This will undoubtedly be a balm to less searching viewers, but Silberling's intentions are rootless. When *A Matter of Life and Death* was released in 1946, the film's vision of heaven as like earth, only in monochrome, comforted viewers whose loved ones had been claimed by war. With its studies of crowded freeways where each lonely driver is cocooned in a separate world, *City of Angels* seems at first to be tapping into the vague anguish caused by pre-millennial jitters. But in its final half-hour, the movie succumbs instead to the dizzy rush of melodrama, inviting a new generation to experience the kitsch thrill that their parents and grand-parents got from the Shangri-La's singing "Leader of the Pack".

ALSO SHOWING

Dreams with the Fishes Finn Taylor (18) ■ **Savior** Peter Antonijevic (15)
■ **The Last Time I Committed Suicide** Stephen Kay (15) ■ **Point Blank** John Boorman (15)

Laughing all the way to the grave

HERE'S A recipe for disaster. Take an uptight suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and a headful of hedonistic fantasies that he's determined to realise on his way to the grave. Give them a few weeks on the road together, stir in a sprinkling of zany supporting characters and leave to simmer until the inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with sick-bag at the ready.

Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. A movie about two young men learning to live in the shadow of death has no right being witty, effervescent and adventurous, but *Dream with the Fishes* is all of these things. Rather than taking his cue from tearjerkers like *Hawks*, the writer-director Finn Taylor combines the salty irreverence of *The Last Detail* with the woody non-sequiturs of *Drugstore Cowboy* to create a work

that seems not so much scripted as daydreamed. The picture is shot in tattered, bleached-out colours; the whole film seems hallucinatory, not least during a glorious acid-trip sequence in which a straight-arrow cop unwittingly imbibes a multiple dose of microdots and has a Mexican stand-off with a rack of doughnuts.

The film consistently smoothes sentimentality before it has a chance to flourish, and the cast are instrumental in this. As the terminally ill Nick, Brad Hunt is aggressively vivacious, and the glee with which he plunges into his fantasies, whether it's nude bowling or nude bank robbery, is very winning. In the role of the potential straight-man Terry, David Arquette mines the rich comic possibilities contained in his mixture of naivety and indignation. When it's time to get serious, Taylor knows how to temper the drama with absurdity. Yes, we get the "Funeral March", though it's plucked out on an electric guitar. And



The hallucinatory 'Dream with the Fishes'

when the death-bed is finally wheeled on, the script concentrates on those pressing matters that might distract you on the cusp of extinction - not the meaning of life, but the names of the Seven Dwarves.

There are also plenty of unexpected giggles in *Savior*, though given that the film is set in war-torn Bosnia, we should assume that they are mostly unintentional. In a bizarre pre-credits sequence, Dennis

Quaid loses his wife (Nastassja Kinski) and son in a Paris bomb blast, then avenges their death by gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer. The next thing you know, Quaid is a hired gun for the Serbs, shaking his head at various atrocities. When he sighs "This war sucks," you'd better cherish the line - it's the film's first and only shot at characterisation or political commentary.

Savior is produced by Olive

Stone, and bears all the worst trademarks of Stone's own films. The horror of war is measured only in the extremity of torture, with mutilated victims served up for our delectation like macabre entrées at a cannibals' banquet. I might feel guilty for laughing at something with so grave a subject matter were the whole film not soulless and calculating. It wants your tears, but deserves only your jeers.

Doesn't Keanu Reeves look like Tony Slattery these days? The thought struck me while watching him trying not to bump into furniture in his supporting role in *The Last Time I Committed Suicide*. Heaven knows there wasn't much else to think about during this mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassidy, played by Thomas Jane. The film just assembles the same old Beat Generation clichés: blue smoke, white vests and black coffee, maan.

John Boorman's *Point Blank*, re-released this week,

first appeared in 1967, the same year as Jean-Pierre Melville's *Le Samourai*. Both pictures were ahead of their time, in their use of violence as an expression of character rather than to generate excitement. In Boorman's brooding *Point Blank*, Lee Marvin is Walker, the heavy who stomps around L.A. looking for the partner who gunned him down. But it's a stark, gloomy quest which can only compound Walker's feelings of impotence and alienation; as he stalks parking lots and corridors, his clicking footsteps ring out like a metronome counting down the seconds to death. Boorman's dexterous manipulation of the fractured narrative ensures that you can never secure a sure footing - the film's surface is as treacherous as a fun-house floor. How mighty and troubling it still seems.

All films on general release from tomorrow

RYAN GILBEY

CATHERINE VON RUHLAND TALKS ABOUT 'THE EXORCIST'

'What we have in *'The Exorcist'* is a sleeves-rolled-up, no-holds-barred fight to the finish between God's representatives and Satan'

PAGE 13

Lee Marvin Angie Dickinson

"★★★★★ - Hits like a knuckleduster... a visceral stew of pitch-black comedy and explosive action... extraordinary" Empire

"★★★★★ - Marvin in his definitive performance... a masterpiece" Uncut
"One of the finest gangster thrillers of all time" Landed

"Stunning" 10

"10/10 - Don't miss" Empire

"A first-class, thick-skin thriller...dazzling" Sight and Sound

Directed by

John Boorman

Opens tomorrow

by

John Boorman

Opens tomorrow

by

John Boorman

Opens tomorrow

by

John Boorman

Opens tomorrow

by

John Boorman

Opens tomorrow

by

John Boorman

Opens tomorrow

by

John Boorman

Opens tomorrow

The granddaddy of screen monsters is back in town. James Mottram talks to the actor Jean Reno about playing number two to a giant digitised lizard, while Joseph Gallivan asks whatever happened to good old rubber puppets



The new Godzilla is a large, lithe lizard, 'animated' by digital effects. But ultimately, film-goers are still going to look for the joins

Godzilla: my part in his downfall

I don't think you lose your culture by immersing yourself in other cultures. It is like a *mille-feuille* - you have a base level which you never lose. Life may indeed be like a bon-bon for France's increasingly iconic Jean Reno.

Usurping Gallic cinema's elder statesman, Gérard Depardieu, as France's premier export to the US, Reno's own brand of laconic cool is ripe for American consumption.

Reno is the natural successor to the chic Sixties style of Alain Delon and Jean-Paul Belmondo. He has starred in his country's most successful film, *Les Visiteurs*, the time-travel comedy that outgrossed *Jurassic Park* in France.

More important, unlike Depardieu - last seen in the abysmal *Man in the Iron Mask* - he has cracked Hollywood. A traitor sporting red braces in Brian De Palma's update of *Mission: Impossible*, Reno was equally at home in Lawrence Kasdan's lightweight *French Kiss*. About to star in *Godzilla*, the summer's biggest piece of popcorn, and

Roland Emmerich's first film since *Independence Day*, Reno is set to widen his fan base, if not his repertoire.

In a mixture of French and English, (two of the five languages he speaks), the words pour out as he defends his choice to play second fiddle to a 20-storey reptile: "If you don't want to do *Godzilla*, don't do it, but I know that doing it will lead to a dozen scripts. We've already contracted to do a sequel - it's just part of the system."

"Sometimes people who do action films become a real product. I haven't anything against that. It's the choice of your life. You can stop, go do a play or a low-budget film. *C'est vrai*. The question remains, is it interesting enough to do *Godzilla*?"

"Yes, of course. Roland Emmerich called me in 1996. A simple human being, saying: 'We'll do a movie about *Godzilla* and have a French character in it. Simple, and let's have a glass of wine.' *Merde*. Why I am going to say 'No'?"

"I was spending time with people I'm happy with. It was not that I had this American dream - it was rather

that I wanted to realise the maximum potential from my work. That way, my dream would be accomplished."

With the monster's growth blamed on French nuclear testing, Reno plays a covert French intelligence operative sent to "clean up" his country's experiment.

Spending the first half of the film peddling a running saga about the poor state of American coffee, expatiating on the delights of Elvis Presley and chewing gum, it's a role tinged with resonance. Reno, too, is a detached observer of the country, while remaining critical of his own.

Smoking and laughing, the 49-year-old discusses the hackneyed political undercurrent of the film.

"It's not the fault of Chirac, because Mitterrand took up the programme. I am not defending him - that's the facts. Now France has finished nuclear testing, and I'm pleased. I'm glad it was raised in our film. It was well written in that sense. I hope it gives people a fright. You cannot have fun when such a lethal force is at stake."

Reno, who was born in Casa-

blanca to Andalusian parents (exiles of the Franco regime), is no stranger to military procedure. He left Morocco when he was 18, joining the French army where he was stationed in Germany as a ranger.

Moving to Paris in 1970, he began working in theatre with the esteemed Didier Fiamand. Despite working in the late Seventies for Costa-Gavras (on *Claire de Femme*), Reno's break came when he met Luc Besson, (then an assistant director), in the early Eighties.

"When I met Luc Besson I was playing *petit bourgeois* roles in the theatre, but someone else's view can change your perception of what you can do. He was one of the first who believed in me," says Reno.

Casting Reno as an aviator in his first film, *Le Dernier Combat*, Besson went on to use him again (foreshadowing *Subway*, subsequently elevating him, via *Nikita* and *The Big Blue*, to the title role in *Léon*, the hitman with a heart - only the second lead of his career).

While losing the chance to reprise his *Nikita* role to Harvey Keitel in the American remake *The*

Assassin, Reno welcomed the chance to diversify.

Never more so than when he starred last year in the charmingly black *Roseanna's Grave* as an Italian trattoria owner attempting to secure for his dying wife the town's last grave plot.

"I have great admiration for people who survive in this business. You have to be daring, but must respect the character and not go too far immediately," he says.

"Look at Clint Eastwood, who has played in everything from *Dirty Harry* to *Madison County* - still many different shades of character and spirit. You have to dare; you can't take an apple and turn it into a pear. You have to go via an apricot on the way." Fruit metaphors aside, the frequently compares his work to tennis players and farmyard animals).

Reno's self-analysis is clinical.

"I am an actor so I try to act. But basically I am a human being. I am fragile; I have fears. I love people. I try to interpret what you want from me, that is all. It is some kind of chemical reaction sometimes, very strange to explain, why you believe

me when I act.

"The only enemy I have is myself. It is the desire to please, that's for sure. The desire to seduce and convince. I do not have a sense of ego."

Having rejected LA life, Reno now lives on a farm in the village of Arles in Provence - "where no one talks about cinema" - with his teenage son and daughter from his first marriage, as well as his girlfriend and their infant son, Tom. "You have to find a good balance between spending time with the family and work; it's like a machine, Hollywood, boom-boom-boom, sending you scripts all the time."

Careful to strike equilibrium also between the machine and more low-key projects, Reno is currently hoping to appear in an American remake of *Les Visiteurs*, produced by *Home Alone's* John Hughes, with Besson potentially set to direct.

Of more interest is an as-yet-unnamed love story with Juliette Binoche. "This is something more intimate - like stopping at a small hotel," he hints. "I prefer this, rather than playing a monster like *Léon*."

Yet, delighting in his chance to



play the Hollywood game, Reno's next screen appointment will be alongside Jonathan Pryce and Robert De Niro in *Román*, the veteran John Frankenheimer's thriller about mercenaries, set in Paris.

"It's a very strange story," Reno concludes. "A classical movie, because Frankenheimer is a 68-year-old director. I was happy to be working with De Niro." Ever the true Frenchman, he adds with a smile: "It was fun, eating and drinking all the time."

Godzilla is released on 17 July

Who wants reality at the movies?

OLIVER STONE PRESENTS

"ONE OF THE MOST REALISTIC MOVIES ABOUT WAR SINCE 'PLATOON'."

SEAN BOY - THE MIRROR

"AN UNMISSABLE, INCREDIBLY MOVING, ANTI-WAR CLASSIC. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FILMS OF THE YEAR."

VICCI STOKES - LUTS TWO SCREEN

SAVIOR

DENNIS QUAYD, NASTASSIA KINSKI, SILESS KARGARD, NAJARA NIKROVIC

STARTS TOMORROW

AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

CAN YOU stomach another movie where the heroes sprint hand-in-hand away from a fuzzy digital fireball? Or someone scampers up a jetty pursued by a mushy grey tidal wave? The sort of movie where the hero always wins through, regardless of physics?

The impending *Godzilla* movie is another such hopeful blockbuster - a monster fantasy that strives after perfect photo-realism.

The movie's creators, director/writer Roland Emmerich and producer/writer Dean Devlin, were so pleased with the way the digital space ships and fighter planes turned out in *Independence Day* (or *ID4* in Hollywood-speak), and how cost-effective it proved, that they set up their own digital effects studio, CFX (Centropolis Effects) to keep the talent together. CFX has grown from a staff of 10 to more than 100, and has become one of the hottest special effects houses around (they did all the *Godzilla* graphics).

The President of CFX, Steve Purim, a supremely confident young animator-turned exec, addressed the crowd at a midtown Manhattan lecture theatre last week.

Most of them were from the



industry - men with frameless glasses, women in black. The future of film-making. The charming Purim talked about his battles with Emmerich who, based on his experience making *StarGate*, hated digital effects and wanted to do all of *ID4* with models and then composite them (a process like blue screening on television).

The result was that for the *F18* fighter plane flights through the Grand Canyon in *Independence Day*, Purim made both the model composite sequences and the computer-generated version, and showed them back-to-back. The director admitted the digital version was superior.

So by the time they were writing *Godzilla* in their Mex-

ican hideaway, Purim said, "Roland and Dean were calling us saying 'What if *Godzilla* swam? What if he jumped? Can we do that?'" Purim assured them that almost anything was possible, right down to having the monster run along the Brooklyn Bridge and get tangled in the cables. All digitally, all without puppets. He drew the line at hair though. Hair is hard to "matte" - to match to the background.

His chief supervisors, two Germans called Carolin Quis and Steffen Wild, then took up the thread. Their main concern was the "pipeline", the technical processes film-makers use to create the images. It takes time to do wireframe models on screen, then "render" them,

(this takes a lot of time and computing power - roughly 30 hours per shot), then add texture, expressions etc. (Fur, it seems, is the hardest thing to do.)

To speed up the pipeline they played with combinations of the best software and hardware available - stuff with names that sound like movies themselves: Flint, SoftImage, Tornado, Storm and Houdini.

At this level, animators can customise the programme so that *Godzilla's* virtual "skeleton" moves with its skin naturally, or so that he moves more slowly than those around him, to make him appear heavy.

Taking us through the different stages of making one scene where *Godzilla's* giant foot crashes down on the back of a yellow taxi right outside Grand Central Station, Wild showed how they did a "pass" for each layer of information: a lighting pass to get the shadows right, an iridescence pass to get the correct sheen of the water running down the monster's knobby skin. (Teeming rain and fog are a good way of covering up any inconsistencies of lighting or outline.)

All pieced together, it looked impressive, like someone had worked hard to make it look natural. But ultimately, the point

The Exorcist: it's back and it's a scream

The horror that turned heads in '74 has been exhumed from movie hell. Chris Darke exorcises its troubled past, while Catherine Von Ruhland gives it her blessing

IN 1974, when *The Exorcist* was first released in the UK, sections of the British press were vehement in their disgusted dismissals: "The Devil take this contrived screen disgrace", "Sickening, gruesome, hateful", ran the headlines.

Twenty-five years on, the re-release of director William Friedkin's classic supernatural thriller arrives at a key moment in the debate on film and video censorship in Britain. While audiences in Scotland can see the film in cinemas from this Friday - with English cinema-goers having to wait for the projected big screen re-release scheduled for Halloween - getting hold of a video copy of *The Exorcist* is another matter altogether.

For all the media furore the film provoked on its original release, it was passed uncut for cinema release and, in 1980, became one of Warner Bros' first home video releases in the UK. So what happened? To explore the fate of *The Exorcist* on video is to delve into the inconsistent and at times downright confusing machinations of the British Board of Film Classification.

It was the draconian Video Recordings Act of 1984 that made the BBFC responsible for video as well as films. The film critic Mark Kermode, who presented the recent BBC documentary *Fear of God: 25 Years of The Exorcist*, and has written a BFI monograph on the film, explains: "The movie was withdrawn from video stores in 1988 and between then and now, they [the BBFC] have been asked if Warners could resubmit and the response has



'The Exorcist' is effectively banned from video release not because it's bad but because it's too good

been, 'Not now, not yet. We're not ready for it.' Nobody thought that the waiting would take this long."

Kermode insists: "This is called banning a film. [James] Ferman [secretary of the BBFC] has let it be known that if it was submitted it would not be passed."

However, James Ferman is due to leave the BBFC by the end of this year, having been in place since 1975, and the new president, Andreas Whittam Smith, is seen by some as promising a less restrictive attitude to censorship, some-

thing fuelled by recent BBFC decisions to allow video certification for the controversial films *Crash* and *Kissed*.

In Kermode's BBC documentary, Ferman explained the reasons behind his resistance to certifying *The Exorcist* for release on video. "The problem with *The Exorcist* is not that it's a bad film but that it's a very good film. It's one of the most powerful films ever made, and it is its power that's the problem on video. The fact is that you're importing it into children's homes, and probably into children's bedrooms, because now

more than 50 per cent of children in Britain have TVs in their bedrooms and many of them have a video as well."

It's an argument that Kermode and many other anti-censorship campaigners have little time for.

In an open letter to *The Observer*, Kermode wrote: "It has been my experience that younger viewers are simply not interested in a movie which, for at least half of its running time, features worried parents and sombre priests anguishing in darkened corridors about loss, remorse, damnation and

salvation. Even the celebrated special effects look dated to a generation raised on *Jurassic Park* and *Titanic*."

A spokesperson at Warner Video said that they are "having meetings with the BBFC at the moment" about whether the film can be now certified. Given the importance of video sales to the commercial viability of film releases, Warner may find themselves the unlikely corporate champions of a whole new chapter in the history of censorship and certification.

CHRIS DARKE

Holy ghostbusters

MY FLESH creeps before I even enter the cinema. After all, *The Exorcist* has a silver jubilee of urban myth to feed on: of heart attacks and epileptic fits in the audience, of strange things happening to the cast like some Tutan-khamun curse striking down anyone involved. I was still in primary school when it was first released but I can remember the stark posters as distinctly as Malcolm McDowell's false eyelashes from *A Clockwork Orange* ads just the year before.

The young Catholic marketing officer at the local multiplex where it's showing tells me she's avoiding seeing it. Editors on the Christian press seem reticent about giving the film's Scottish distribution any coverage. Phoning in ideas for my column on an evangelical paper, there is a marked silence from the editor when I suggest reviewing it. Another Christian arts editor is more interested in the news angle of any campaigns against its showing - "and especially if Episcopalians have anything to say".

The film's atmosphere of utter evil is chillingly authentic

in a way achieved by possibly no other movie. Where most Hollywood horror pussesoots around the satanic, casting a hollow-cheeked gentleman charmer like Christopher Lee or Al Pacino as the very devil himself, *The Exorcist* remains deeply disturbing in its account

of the 12 year old Regan's possession and the ensuing spiritual battle for her soul.

The improved sound quality exacerbates the film's sheer horror for without a visible foe - except as expressed in young Linda Blair's impressive contortions and bestial facial trans-

formation - it is what we hear that terrifies. Yet the film's redeeming theme is that of the Catholic priest choosing to go the full distance with Utter Darkness - a sleeves-rolled-up, no-holds-barred fight to the finish between God's earthly representatives and Satan.

Disturbing in its depiction of evil in a way that controversial releases such as *Reservoir Dogs* and *Crash* are not, it is not a film that I would wish to be seen by anyone who is under 18. But, *The Exorcist* is surely an explicitly Christian film. Against primitive, 1970s brain scans and dismissive psychiatric diagnoses, only Church rites administered by Max von Sydow's frail but fearless Father Merrin and Jason Miller's doubting Father Karras can reach Regan's troubled soul.

Certainly the depicted possession is overblown, but the ministry is presented with dignity as an honourable vocation, staffed by people who are ordinary, imperfect men aided by the power of God. Both priests, like their God, are self-sacrificial in their quest to save the girl. And the very crux of the film is all there in the famous poster image: the yellow silhouette of the man at the gate bringing light into the pitch black of the night.

Catherine Von Ruhland is film critic of the *New Christian Herald*

WHAT THEY SAID IN 1974

"*The Exorcist* is claptrap. It has hardly any narrative to speak of... it contains more loose ends than the first draft of a 2000-page novel." Vincent Canby, *New York Times*

"It rates high on the list of phenomena not to be taken seriously... Making analytic statements about it is as silly as the famous one made by a social scientist about 'The Godfather', he said that the movie was a hit because

people liked the example it provided of family solidarity." Eugene C Kennedy, priest and psychology professor, *New York Times*

"All I can say after squirming through this sickening excess of blood, vomiting, lewd language and gruesome satanic phenomena is that I hope never again to see anything half as hateful." *The Daily Mail*

"Doing that soundtrack was a terrible experience. I didn't just do the voice. I did all the demon's sounds. That wheezing, for instance. My bronchitis helped with that... I used moaning cries I used when playing Lady Macbeth for Orson [Welles]... For the groaning, I pulled a scarf around my neck, tight, and almost strangled." Mercedes McCambridge, who voiced the demon, speaking to Charles Bigham, *Variety*

THE CHARTS

US BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	TOTAL TAKINGS
1 <i>The Truman Show</i>	2315	\$44,521,779	\$44,521,779
2 <i>A Perfect Murder</i>	2845	\$23,096,578	\$23,096,578
3 <i>Godzilla</i>	3310	\$13,149,277	\$17,451,443
4 <i>Hope Floats</i>	2404	\$12,837,135	\$12,837,135
5 <i>Deep Impact</i>	3280	\$8,973,486	\$54,447,715
6 <i>The Horse Whisperer</i>	2362	\$7,872,486	\$22,594,264
7 <i>Bulworth</i>	1794	\$2,429,418	\$582,670,447
8 <i>Titanic</i>	1219	\$2,254,910	\$7,778,167
9 <i>I Got the Hook-Up</i>	655	\$2,254,910	\$7,778,167
10 <i>Quest For Camelot</i>	1562	\$2,108,869	\$20,031,548

UK BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	TOTAL TAKINGS
1 <i>The Wedding Singer</i>	270	£1,498,831	£1,498,831
2 <i>Silencing the Stars</i>	268	£1,083,680	£8,508,883
3 <i>Deep Impact</i>	368	£1,022,780	£8,117,868
4 <i>The General</i>	88	£343,699	£897,026
5 <i>Wishmaster</i>	218	£307,189	£835,006
6 <i>Red Corner</i>	186	£306,392	£306,392
7 <i>Scream 2</i>	179	£259,307	£7,480,944
8 <i>Dark City</i>	174	£221,208	£687,295
9 <i>Titanic</i>	139	£220,772	£67,700,407
10 <i>Replacement Killers</i>	129	£220,642	£220,642

HONG KONG BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	TOTAL TAKINGS
1 <i>Deep Impact</i>	36	\$1,494,464	\$1,494,464
2 <i>City of Angels</i>	19	\$442,674	\$442,674
3 <i>Expect the Unexpected</i>	25	\$238,204	\$647,207
4 <i>Young & Dangerous</i>	22	\$208,235	\$208,235
5 <i>Love & Sex of the East</i>	20	\$191,303	\$575,172
6 <i>The Wedding Singer</i>	5	\$47,558	\$246,984
7 <i>Wag the Dog</i>	3	\$40,211	\$127,449
8 <i>Wild Things</i>	3	\$20,505	\$99,690
9 <i>Tale of the Sacred Mount</i>	5	\$17,109	\$52,968
10 <i>Man in the Iron Mask</i>	3	\$15,561	\$1,267,179

RUSHES

MIKE HIGGINS

LESS THAN GREAT: The dismal presence of Matthew McConaughey (check out his performance in *Contact* for a text-book definition of redundancy) looks set to blight another project. An Alexander the Great biopic, which originally came to light with Oliver Stone and Tom Cruise attached, has been revived with the news that Christopher McQuarrie, the writer behind *The Usual Suspects*, has penned a new screenplay of the life of the Macedonian leader - and the smirking Texan is in talks to star.

RETURN OF THE DOLLS: *Brady Bunch* director Betty Thomas looks intent on mining an entire career from a rich seam of 50s and 60s trash. Next up for Thomas is a re-make of *Dr Dollittle* with Eddy Murphy and this week comes news that she's on the verge of clinching a deal to helm another version of Jacqueline Susann's pulpy best-selling 1966 novel, *Volley of the Dolls*. Susann's vivid portrayal of the tribulations of three wannabe starlets battling to the top has sold over 19 million copies to date and underwent its first film adaptation a year after publication; an effort which Susann judged "a piece of shit". Su-

sann got as good as she gave, however: Truman Capote once commented that she looked rather like "a truck driver in drag". Whether actress Bette Midler, who is due to star as the writer in a forthcoming biopic, will take Capote's bon mot as a cue for her characterisation remains for us all to see, however.

TEARS FOR PINOCCHIO: A tearful turn of events in Francis Ford Coppola's legal action against Warner Brothers provided a fascinating glimpse into the kind of schmalz that attracts one of American cinema's greatest directors. Coppola is seeking over \$23m in damages for what he believes is the studio's attempt to lay claim to a live-action, big screen adaptation of *Pinocchio*, which they had initially expressed interest in before backing off. Coppola told the court before breaking down: "I don't know why stories of kids are so moving to me. You need a concept that gives life to a [story], to give it a heart and soul, something unique." The director cried as he recounted his vision of the *Pinocchio* tale, which updates the story of the lying wooden puppet who dreams of becoming a real boy to Nazi-occupied France.

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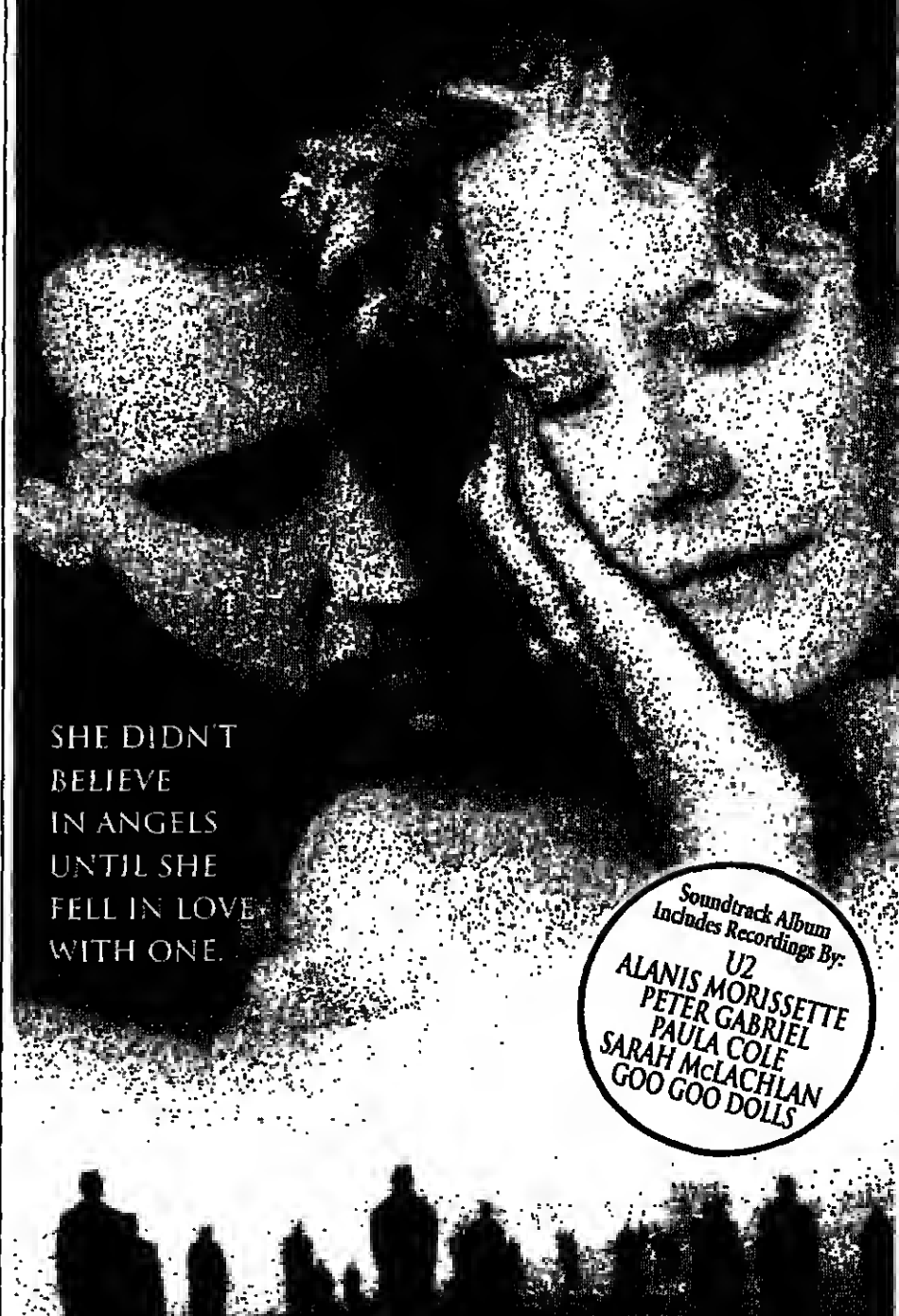
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Out of the closet, into the fire

'Out' is no longer cool in Hollywood, if ever it was. Take Anne Heche: a bankable star turned film promoter's nightmare. By Cameron Docherty

Does anybody really believe Harrison Ford when he says he doesn't care that Anne Heche, the leading lady in his latest film, *Six Days, Seven Nights*, is a lesbian? "Frankly, I don't give a damn," he has doggedly replied when the subject is inevitably broached. But the controversial casting of Heche, the "fiancee" of America's infamous lesbian TV star Ellen DeGeneres, in a romantic role opposite Ford—who has built a career playing steadfast, masculine heroes in hit movies such as the Indiana Jones trilogy, *Presumed Innocent*, and *Air Force One*—seems to have backfired. It appears that Heche's much-byped relationship with DeGeneres has become a stumbling-block for Disney in their attempts to promote the film. In a recent poll, 68 per cent of respondents said their decision to see the romantic thriller had been adversely affected by the choice of Heche as Ford's love interest.

That sentiment was echoed by one high-powered studio executive, who maintained that "the only way *Six Days, Seven Nights* works is if you buy into the premise that the couple are falling in love. But that's almost impossible to do because you have a female lead better known for her sexual preferences than for her screen persona." Heche, of course, was thrust into the limelight last year when her lover, the actress Ellen DeGeneres, declared to all and sundry that she is a lesbian (and she also announced that, yep, her TV character is gay too). For a while, the couple were omnipresent. They cuddled up at premieres, flaunted their sexuality on

the Oprah Winfrey show, and looked as if they were joined at the hip while attending a White House state dinner.

Everyone I talked to had become sick to death of them both. So, eventually, did ABC, which yanked DeGeneres' mid-rated sitcom from its line-up for next year. Sadly, the reviews for *Six Days, Seven Nights* concentrated not so much on Heche's overall performance as on her portrayal of a heterosexual woman. "Much too whiny," criticised *The Hollywood Reporter*.

So how is any of this even remotely sad? Because Heche, a talented actress, has been denied the greatest gift any actor can have: The ability to surprise us. All the hullabaloo concerning her sexuality and her lifestyle has undermined her value as a performer. By being so public about private matters, she seems to have inadvertently typecast herself for ever.

Why? Because we know far too much about her. The name of her dog, which side of the bed she prefers to sleep on, even the colour of her toilet paper. Several critics have wondered whether she would have been cast in the part if she had not already been living with Ellen. I suspect not. Not that it matters. When we see *Six Days, Seven Nights*, we think, "Is that really the lesbian girl who lives with Ellen? I wonder what she sees in her."

In 10 years' time, this won't matter. They will either be married, in which case we will be tired of them, or they will have broken up, in which case those of us with short memories will have forgotten that they ever cohabited. (Although as the movie started its run, that's all we could think about.) Heche couldn't surprise us because we

knew too much about her.

Also, whether she admits it or not (she doesn't), her lesbianism gets in the way of intimate moments she shares with Ford on screen. You know it's difficult for them to kiss, because he's really not her cup of tea. Some actresses openly admit they enjoy feigning moments of passion with handsome leading men. "Hey, it's not exactly a stretch to find Brad Pitt attractive," observed Minnie Driver. For Heche, though, audiences know it's a huge pretence and the moment is overshadowed by what we know.

Of course, Heche is not the first high-profile lesbian to be maligned for her sexuality. Long before DeGeneres and Heche, notable performers such as Sandra Bernhard and Idina Menzel were already out there, extolling the virtues of a lesbian life. Was it merely a coincidence that the downward spiral of their careers occurred not long after this bold proclamation?

Their prominence in the early Nineties seemed to indicate a triumphant resurgence in the lesbian movement which had flaked off into grumbling factions and separatist groups in the Seventies. The stereotype lesbian was a girlie-girl, a trend-setter and go-go dancer. And the steamy lambada scene with Sharon Stone in *Basic Instinct* set the tone.

There was Melissa Etheridge and her lover celebrating lesbian motherhood on the cover of *Newsweek*, the popularity of writers such as Jeanette Winterson and Dorothy Allison (who posed for *The New York Times* magazine in biker gear); lesbian movies such as *Bound to Xena: Warrior Princess*, a television character who has become a role model for teenage

females and a huge lesbian cult hit as well.

However, the climate has changed again, and high-profile lesbians don't seem so ecstatic about coming out now. "I don't care to define myself as a lesbian," Bernhard, a former playmate of Madonna, told *Out* magazine recently. "I hate that word. It's a nasty dirty word. It's not a glamorous word. It's not a sexy word. It's dry. It's colourless."

The problem is that our pop culture wants everything and everyone nailed down, neatly labelled and explicit. The intellectual practitioners may preach a porous unisexuality in which genders are blurred, and males and females share each other's clothes, but the tabloid press, the dominant influence on media culture today, works from an entirely different agenda.

Its job is to squeeze out confessions or, failing that, to get the goods. Hence all those off-guard, grainy "Gotcha!" shots of a female celebrity with her "lady friend" that appear in the American tabloids almost every week. Tabloid forgers assume that each celebrity has a private and a public face, like two sides of a playing-card, and that when the two sides clash, it's open season.

Some of the celebrities who come out – Rupert Everett and George Michael spring to mind – do so less from pride than from battle fatigue. They're tired of being dogged by the media. Of course, no one should stay in the closet if they want to be out. But in the case of Anne Heche, at the start of what I'm sure she hopes will be a long and distinguished film career, discretion might have been the better part of valour.



Anne Heche may well be wishing she had stayed quiet

Reina

Women on the edge of an emotional breakthrough

It was the first time Brenda Blethyn and Julie Walters worked together, but 'Girls' Night' was the start of a beautiful friendship. By W Stephen Gilbert

IT'S MID-APRIL 1997. I'm standing in the market of a small town outside Manchester, talking to a young man whom no one recognises as a movie director. Around us is spread the paraphernalia of a shoot. The locals are healthily indifferent to the invasion. In a couple of days, the lights and trucks will be gone but local business will go on.

Nick Hurran is doing something directors in Hollywood don't do. He is talking about writers. "I've been very lucky all along the way with the writers I have got to work with – Richard Harris, Simon Nye, Michael Frayn wrote the last thing I did." That was *Remember Me?* a film developed from one of Frayn's 1980s television plays called *Jamie on n Flying Visit*, and, it might be argued, better left in television history.

A rather small part in *Remember Me?* was taken by Brenda Blethyn, doubtless as a favour to Hurran after the success they shared in three series of the Richard Harris sitcom *Outside Edge*, itself developed from a stage play. Now Blethyn is waiting in her trailer to shoot a scene from *Girls' Night*, which pairs her with

Julie Walters, to everyone's surprise the first time these two have played together.

Blethyn stepped off the plane from last year's Oscars ceremony to be rushed to the read-through of *Girls' Night*. There is little doubt where she feels more comfortable. Not that the madness of LA did not amuse her. "We had a limo to take us to the Elton John party because he was going to toast the independent films at midnight. My partner Mike and I noticed we were down back streets and surely not where we were supposed to be. So I said to the driver: 'Do you know where you are?' and he said: 'No, Ma'am.' He was a stranger in Los Angeles and he was lost. I panicked. It was terribly embarrassing to go into a garage in a stretch limo to ask directions. I was decked out in \$3m-worth of jewellery and we were lost in the back streets."

Julie Walters, of course, went through this experience 14 years earlier with her Academy Award nomination for *Educating Rita*. I wondered if they had compared notes. "Not yet," says Blethyn. "Our



Brenda Blethyn and Julie Walters, together on film at last

heads have been down, working. It seems like history now to me. That's the best medicine of all. It isn't half nice. And I am a real fan of hers. But it is straight to work, then home to bed and no time for anything else. I can't phone my work in. And I must have my sleep.

Walters is pleased about the pair-

ing, too. "She is my type of actress. I feel as if I know her. It's really funny. In another life perhaps."

Girls' Night is about two sisters in law who regularly play hingo to Walters' character, Jackie, a brassy go-getter feeling hemmed in by disappointing husband and lousy production-line jobs. Dawn

(Blethyn) is a devoted home-maker who is just beginning to be overwhelmed by illness when she has a big win on the bingo.

Kay Mellor's hold and beautifully written script embraces the emotion and the humour of the women's situation in a way that is very un-English and almost shamelessly upfront.

The actresses lap it up. "Right! This is it! Absolutely!" cries Julie Walters. "And middle-aged women! We love this!"

For her, acting a role affected by the desperate illness of someone close is bound to be shadowed by the long struggle borne by Walters' daughter Maisie in her childhood. "Your life does affect your work. Everything is going to influence the way you observe and embody a character. It was peculiar shooting in a hospital the other day. We spent such a long time in hospital. But Maisie's well and a child and my daughter and it was such a huge personal thing, there's nothing like the fear of losing a child. I think I felt more aware of remembering my friend Ian Charleson when he was

dying in 1990. But I try to keep away from too much emotion when I am working because I wouldn't want to go 'whathey!' – you might never stop. So I don't consciously go to it as emotional material. But it's part of me, naturally."

I ask Brenda Blethyn about the difficulty of playing emotional scenes. "I don't find one thing more difficult than another to play. It's just finding the truth of it, not how you do something but why you do it. Why you say it. That's the most challenging part of any acting. All you should ever do is trust the writing. If you don't trust it, don't do it."

She was given an early draft of the script and at that stage said she would be keen to pursue it. "It's been floating around in my mind for about nine months, like a pregnancy. I didn't sit down and sweat over it. She was just renting a room up in my head somewhere. The true friendship of women, even though neither of them really realises it, I found nourishing. It's so tender, but she is not afraid of things being ugly."

Julie Walters says that Kay Mellor's dialogue is unusually easy to

play. "It just goes into your head. I don't say I never forget a line but it's very easy to learn and that is a good sign I always think. And of course middle-aged women are rarely represented this well."

Meeting Kay Mellor four months later, I encounter a writer ecstatic with the fine cut of the film that Nick Hurran has just shown her. "It's very seldom in any writer's career that a script is realised 100 per cent. Brenda and Julie just knew what I wanted. They knew why I had written it. Nick's been affected by cancer in his family so he understood it, too. It almost seemed like someone was up there looking after us."

The script had unusually personal origins. "I wrote it as a tribute to a friend who was dying of cancer a couple of years ago. They were encouraging her to talk about it. But she didn't want to. The last thing she said to me was: 'You have to write about it, Kay, so that we don't have to talk about it, those of us that don't want to.' And I wanted to understand how she graciously left this life while I was furious and raging." *'Girls' Night'* opens on 26 June.

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VIDEOWATCH

MIKE HIGGINS

Crash (18) (available to rent now)

A year after David Cronenberg's censor baiter got the moral majority riled, it's hard to see what all the fuss was about. Anyone who was likely to end up corrupted by this tedious study of sexuality, morality and cars would have to stay awake.

James Spader is a decadent commercials director (is there any other sort?) who becomes involved with Holly Hunter following a car accident between the two of them in which her husband is killed. Their relationship develops around the car wreck which unites them and reveals an entire sub-culture devoted to man's subjection to the machine. Rosanna Arquette wanders around in callipers, but by the time she turns up, you're beyond caring about this anemic adaptation of JG Ballard's novel.

Lawn Dogs (15) (available to rent from Monday)
Sam Rockwell is on a nice little earner. Americans, according to their films anyway, can't get enough of kooky red-neck sages



James Spader and Holly Hunter in 'Crash'

setting the world to rights and Rockwell appears to have cornered the market. In *Box of Moonlight*, he played a kind of harlequin who flushes the ants from John Turturro's pants and in John Duigan's off-beat drama it's business as usual.

Mischa Barton is a ten-year-old roped into selling cookies in her manicured up-market neighbourhood in order to burnish the family image for her father's local political ambitions. Rockwell, playing a mildly

eccentric young gardener (or lawn dog) is befriended by the girl, further incurring the wrath of the rich local teenagers and their uptight families. The suburban satire is efficiently handled even if Tim Burton did it far better in *Edward Scissorhands*.

Marvin's Room (12) (available to buy now - £10.99)
Back in the days before Leonardo DiCaprio decided that playing drill-wielding yuppies would permit us a

glimpse of the urchin's dark side (or whatever), he kept himself busy with roles like this: the sulky, sultry teenager. Jerry Zaks's understated chamber piece about family loyalty works well, though. Even if this adaptation of the late Scott McPherson's stage play provided the sort of choice roles that its A-list cast routinely notch up every few years (to show us all the actor within, of course), it's mercifully of the thesp grandstanding that projects like these often provoke.

Diane Keaton was deserted 20 years previously by her sister, Meryl Streep, and has been hurried ever since with the care of their parents. Now, she prepares for the return of Streep, with brats in tow (including DiCaprio). Pleasingly, the ensuing drama seems to take much of its chilly tone from the shady Florida hangout in which much of the action takes place. A few treaty lapses notwithstanding, the film also includes a fabulous pair of cameo performances from Robert De Niro as a local physician and Dan Hedaya as his completely loopy brother.

FAST TRACK

GRADUATING TO THE WORLD OF WORK

A diplomatic change of face

One man is out to change the statistic that only three per cent of Foreign Office staff are from an ethnic minority. By Louise Jury

Around 500 guests will mingle in the gilded grandeur of the Foreign Office tonight as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, hosts a reception. It marks the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the *Empire Windrush*, which carried hundreds of people from the West Indies "home to the mother country". And it is fair to assume there will be an uncharacteristically large number of black faces among those raising their glasses.

If you think about the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), you probably think white, public-school male. Accurate, in many ways. Only



Linbert Spencer: 'I think diversity adds value'

three per cent of FCO staff are from the ethnic minorities. A third are women.

But when Labour swept to power last year, they demanded change. Baroness Symons, the minister in charge of personnel, went on the record as wanting more black and female faces, and more people with disabilities. She asked for action.

On 1 December, Linbert Spencer, a 50-year-old management consultant and expert on equal opportunities, was appointed minority ethnic liaison officer. "The brief was for me to work with the Foreign Office in order to increase the number of minority ethnic diplomatic service staff," he says.

As soon as Linbert arrived in office, he organised a bit of publicity encouraging people from ethnic minorities to apply for Foreign Office jobs. He believes that his efforts are already working.

This year's recruitment for mainstream staff - the Civil Service



The Foreign and Commonwealth Office aims to make its staff roster a closer reflection of the country's cultural diversity

Herbie Knott

equivalent of a graduate management trainee in the private sector, except that you do not have to be a graduate - began in February, and applicants from ethnic minorities have more than doubled from the previous year's 200, making them 25 per cent of potential recruits. Selection is still under way, but Linbert is confident that more will be successful than last year's two out of 17 appointments.

To improve the number of entrants into the diplomatic fast stream, the FCO yesterday held its first recruitment fair, opened by

the Foreign Secretary himself. Around 1,000 graduates and undergraduates, all from ethnic minorities or with disabilities, were welcomed to Westminster.

The idea is to get out into the community and to get the community to get a glimpse of the Foreign Office. There have been a series of specially targeted advertisements in newspapers such as the *Caribbean Times* and *Eastern Eye*. And there have been any number of meetings.

The Foreign Office has recruited organisations - race equality councils, advice bodies, housing trusts -

with clear influence on their communities. "People who are listened to, people who have authority, what we call multipliers," Linbert says. Forty volunteer members of FCO staff have gone out to places such as Nottingham, Manchester and London to meet and talk. The feedback has been positive. "From the communities, I think there's a general awareness of the idea that there's a seriousness on the part of the Foreign Office," Linbert says. "It's not a one-headline wonder."

One of the main problems for the FCO, he believes, is image. "It's not

so much that people have this detailed knowledge of what's going on, but they have an image of men from Oxford and Cambridge who went to public schools. While there are people from these backgrounds in the organisation - and who obviously make a tremendous contribution - that's not the sole make-up. Neither is it the organisation's aim that they should be the only ones sought after."

The Foreign Office wants the public to know this. Although not the main purpose of the *Windrush* reception tonight, many of the guests

will be exactly the kind of people Linbert Spencer wants as "multipliers". And though he knows some people turn up their noses at the ostentation of the FCO's imposing Whitehall offices, he believes that most of the guests are glad they were invited.

"I've not met any resistance from people wanting to come and be part of what's happening. They are very pleased to be invited into the heart of government. We don't always make the right assumptions, especially about people of Caribbean and south Asian origin. There is a sense of loyalty to crown and state."

There may be a commitment to public service, too. The Asian community, for instance, may have traditionally encouraged its children into professions such as medicine and the law, but Linbert Spencer believes that many of them could be attracted into the public sector.

"We want to attract the brightest and the best in the community and sell to them the idea of a career in the public sector," he says. They are no less likely than their white counterparts to have a sense of commitment to services, he says. "If you look at minority ethnic communities and the social welfare activity that carries on on a voluntary basis, you can't argue that there isn't a sense of commitment to service."

Linbert, whose parents brought him to the UK from Jamaica at the age of seven, began work at the Foreign Office by talking to people and securing enthusiasm at the highest levels.

"It was agreed that if we were going to make some progress on this agenda, there needed to be clear leadership given from the top of the organisation," he says. Ministers have shown support, and parliamentary under-secretaries alerted staff to the project through their regular telegrams.

Asked whether he has found support from the men of the Foreign Office, Linbert Spencer replies a wholehearted yes, though there is always a need to explain why there has to be a budget for such work.

According to Linbert, the Foreign Office has not traditionally seen ethnic communities in Britain as its constituency. It is a big leap in thinking for some, but Linbert believes the long-term benefits will be enormous.

"I'm doing this because I think it's important," he says. "Not just for fairness in distribution of employment in different communities. I absolutely believe that organisations that are ethnically and culturally diverse in terms of staff will come up with better policies, better ways of doing things and more effective practice at the end of the day. I think diversity adds value."

This is even more important if you are a government organisation dealing with social policy world-wide. It makes sense to use the whole range of people living in Britain, if among them you already have representatives of nations that you need to deal with.

He thinks the Foreign Office understands that. "They're not engaged in notions of fairness or morality or social engineering. There is a clear business case."

CORPORATE STRATEGIES

THE INSIDE TRACK ON BECOMING A CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL

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of laddish behaviour. Football, thankfully, is a slightly more civilised pursuit.

■ **Temp** - aerobics. Aerobic training hones that most crucial temping skill: the ability to follow complex instructions shouted out by a manic slave-driver. Buttock clenches, meanwhile, build up the muscles used to resist uncomfortable office seating - and lying flat on her back cycling her legs in the air is useful practice for the Christmas party.

■ **Accountant** - tennis. If your accountant is having difficulty with some complicated returns, this probably means that he's out on the astro turf practising his ground strokes. Contrary to popular misapprehension, the only rackets most financial traders are involved with are those of the catgut-strung variety.

■ **Middle-manager** - rowing. Generally rowing with other people about "who is not pulling their weight around this place".

■ **Line manager** - rifle shooting. Talking at length about "aims" and "target areas" comes naturally to any senior management staff, as does the ability to fire repeatedly with ruthless efficiency.

■ **Travelling salesman** - rally driving.

■ **Union rep** - baseball (three strikes and you're out).

■ **Canteen worker** - the egg and spoon race.

■ **Head of personnel** - the sack race.

■ **Office bore** - snooker.

■ **Security guard** - American football. Requires the ability to be a large, illiterate thug who refuses to let anyone get past him. (Millwall Supporters is an acceptable substitute).

■ **Post-boy** - the 80m sprint.

■ **Telemarketeer** - angling. Sitting absolutely motionless for hours on end, being stuck on the end of a line and trying to lure that elusive big catch is the secret of both angling and telemarketing. The phrase "sling your hook" is also common to both fields. Angling, however, is less likely to result in any sentient life form being bashed over the head with an iron bar.

■ **IT supervisor** - Nintendo soccer, preferably over a multi-player link with all the other IT staff, until the system crashes due to network overload.

■ **Solitary smoker** in non smoking office - skiing. The ski slope holds no terror for this employee, who -

since being banished to the office roof - is well used to standing outside in the freezing cold at very high altitudes. The other sport popular amongst smokers is cricket, since having a crafty bag without the manager spotting you requires considerable skill at catching and retaining the Ashes.

■ **Fat cat chairman** - golf. Golf is ideally suited to the chairman, since it involves nothing more taxing than a gentle stroll in the country with someone else carrying your bags and the prospect of a long drink in an exclusive country club at the end of it all (those rolling expanses of lush verdant grass will also remind him of his green baize desk back at the office - though the golf course does not, of course, cover quite so many acres).

■ **Sadly** - golf also requires the wearing of exceedingly silly trousers and Fringle sweaters, which explains why so few women make it to the very top jobs. Unlike, say, Richard Branson, they have far too much dress sense to swap their Manolos for a pair of ridiculous golf shoes.

■ **Extremely fat-cat chairman** - Sumo wrestling.

If your working schedule is too frantic to allow for regular sporting pursuits, don't despair! Most popular team games have their office equivalent.

Darts, for instance, can be easily replicated with a photo of the MD and a set of sharp kitchen knives. Basketball, using screwed-up important memos and a wastepaper basket, has been played for years by less-enthusiastic personnel. If, despite this, you are still a physical weakling completely devoid of co-ordination, lacking any team spirit and unable to kick a ball to save your life... rest assured.

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DEBBIE BARHAM

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

GUINNESS PLC

Age: 239

History: The company was founded in Dublin in 1759 by Arthur Guinness, who bought a brewery at St James's Gate and whose "stout porter" sounds today more like a bouncer than a pint. Nevertheless, Guinness Stout - Ireland's "dark secret" - became the base around which the company grew, and is still served in 150 countries, with a third of these brewing the drink locally. Meanwhile, the Dublin brewery is still exporting around the world, while the company's London brewery takes care of pubs in the UK. Guinness has also built up other brands, including Cruzcampo, Harp, Kilkenny, Irish Beer and Red Stripe - as well as its sister companies Johnnie Walker, Bells and Gordons. It also came up with the popular "widget" in the Eighties.

Address: Headquarters are at Park Royal brewery in north London.

Ambience: The company is reputed to favour movers and achievers, rather than those who are good at politics or know the right set of people. There has been an emphasis on recruiting people in the 25-to-30 age bracket, as well as recent graduates. Ambience depends which bit they end up in. There's no one single thing to say. Some departments have dressing-down days.

Vital statistics: Guinness is now part of Diageo plc, after a merger with Grand Metropolitan in December last year. It now employs 12,500 people world-wide, and has seven operating regions. Last year's pre-tax profits amounted to



£254m, which also heralded the company's fifth consecutive year of profit growth. In addition, it won a Queen's Award for Export two years ago.

Lifestyle: As in many other international companies, trainees are expected to be mobile and will probably get to travel. Some are based at the London headquarters, others in the regions. The company insists that future "business leaders" have international exposure.

Easy to get into? Competition is fairly stiff, with only around a dozen graduates taken on annually - preferably with an upper second degree - and 1,000 applicants last year. But there are other opportunities for those with talent, including a "business insight" programme for undergraduates to get involved with key projects, giving input into such areas as recommendations on how to sell the drink, and how to market it to contemporaries.

Glistening alumni: Brendan

O'Neill was well versed in the art of brewing before he left Guinness to head up ICI. The Guinness family itself has enjoyed its fair share of notoriety, although it's not known whether Ernest supped stout in his cell.

Pay: The company says that, owing to restructuring, there are no starting salary figures available just now. Unusually, pay is not performance related, although all employees are entitled to a share of the profits.

Training: There's an emphasis on managing your own training, not just leaving it up to the company. Coaching, feedback and mentoring are all methods used, but the whole thing is left deliberately unstructured, and there is no set training period. Those who want to go in for formal qualifications - such as chartered accountancy exams - may be granted study leave.

Facilities: The staff restaurant serves free food and there's also an in-house gym. Meanwhile, for those who can't get enough of Guinness, a staff shop sells discounted beer and merchandise. In addition, there's a rather nice (but taxable) benefit for all employees - a product allowance including 12 cases of Guinness annually.

Who's the boss? Colin Storm, who joined Guinness in 1961 as an under-brewer, has risen to the top and is now chief executive. As a spokeswoman put it: "He's a shining example of how far you can go within the company."

RACHELLE THACKRAY

Parents want their children to be happy in their careers. Or so they tell them. But what happens when they become resentful of their high-achieving offspring? By Annabelle Thorpe

Nick Carter has been out of university for three years. Unlike most recent graduates who are still paying off loans, dreaming about owning a car, and rotating two suits (one of which is at least five years old), Nick drives a soft top Mercedes, wears Paul Smith suits and drinks champagne on weekday evenings. He lives in a trendy area of East London and spends more on a Friday night out with his friends than most of us get through in an entire weekend. At the age of 25, he is an investment analyst in the City, earning roughly £50,000 plus bonuses. In short, Nick Carter is young, rich and loving it.

Contrary to appearances, however, not all aspects of Nick's life are making him happy. His incredible success and financial security has brought problems from one unexpected corner of his life - his parents. "What I do, or maybe more accurately, what I earn has become rather a big problem between me and my dad," he admits. "My father was a teacher all his life, and even though he was a headmaster in his fifties he didn't earn as much as I do. He's also quite left wing and I know he thinks that what I earn - and what I spend it on - is immoral. As it is, I've told him I earn less than I do. It does make me unhappy. It's not that he criticises me directly, just that he never seems to be impressed when I talk about work. I want him to be proud of me, but for him it's not that simple."

Nick's problem is a relatively new spin on an old debate, however: the child's ongoing struggle to win the approval of mum and dad. For most young people, the expectation is that the disappointment parents occasionally express in their children's decisions recedes with career successes. After all, we're constantly told by our parents that they only want us to be secure and happy. In reality, landing a high-flying job with a fat salary can actually make things worse.

"I think it's incredibly sad when parents feel unable to take pride in their children's achievements," says Dr Richard Woolfson, a psychologist specialising in family problems. "Part of the parental role is to unconditionally support their children - unless they are doing something immoral or wrong," insists Woolfson. "All human beings need validation and reinforcement that what we are doing is good, and parents are often the prime source of that support."

"Objectively, I can understand dad's point to an extent," says Nick. "He spent his life doing a 'worthwhile' job that was very poorly paid. I actually think that salaries in the City are hugely inflated - but I don't dictate how much I earn. I'd still want to do my job if I earned £20K but dad doesn't seem to understand that - and it means that we are becoming distanced from each other. If I talk about work he can't help but make sarcastic comments and I get annoyed. But if I don't talk about work, it feels as though we're avoiding the whole subject."

"However difficult it seems, you have to keep trying to involve your parents - even if they don't seem interested," says Dr Woolfson. "It can be hard if you're coming up against sarcastic comments or negative feedback but it is important to keep talking about what you're doing - otherwise you will drift apart."

Nick's situation will be familiar to many who rose to success in the money markets of the Eighties and Nineties. Every parent has to put up with offspring whose political views differ wildly from their own but Conservative reform in the City threw the vexed issue of inflated salaries into the pot.

In another common scenario, parents often make their children feel as if they have in some way compromised the reputation of the fam-



Charlie and Martin Sheen act out a clash of family values as father and son in 'Wall Street'

In my day you earned it, son

ily trade. Again, this has long been a common cause of tension between the generations but the problem has never been as stark as it is now. As we approach the 21st century, however, the conditions in which previous generations worked in many industries have changed beyond all recognition.

Jan Matheson, an independent television producer, knows this only too well. "When I first decided I wanted to go into television, my Dad was thrilled, as he'd been a producer," she says. "But over the years he has become more disenchanted with my choices - he produced documentaries. I do more light entertainment programmes - what he calls 'trivial'. It hurts that he belittles my work and I also think he's a bit jealous that I have become a producer so much more quickly than him. But I'm doing a different job - he worked on far more

prestigious programmes than I do, and it was a much longer route to becoming involved with those," says Matheson. "I know he thinks that I just can't be bothered to put in the work that he did - but I'm interested in different aspects of producing."

"Although it is rare, some parents do feel threatened or even inadequate if their kids are extremely high achievers," says Mina Davison, a work psychologist. "The workplace has undergone huge changes over the past 20 years - the concept of having to work long years of an 'apprenticeship' has, in many professions, been replaced by a far more flexible structure. In the media, in IT and finance particularly, it is now possible to be doing a job and earning a salary that would have taken 10 or 15 years to achieve when our parents were at work. Retired parents are often out of touch with the workplace, and don't real-

ly understand how the system actually works."

"Television has changed radically with deregulation and all the cable channels," agrees Jan Matheson. "There are simply so many more jobs around - it's a totally different business from the one my father worked in. Then there were three terrestrial channels and each job was fought over. Work was very important to my Dad and I think he knows he's out of touch with the industry he used to be a part of."

It can be very demoralising when the very people whom you look to for unconditional support seem to be disapproving of your chosen career. But there are alternative sources of support - if your parents cannot be proud of you, there are plenty of other people around who will be.

"It is important to keep on talking to your parents," says Dr Wool-

son, "but it's also important to remember that there are other people with whom you can share your success. Talk to your partner, siblings, friends - these are people who will understand the working world as it is to-day and who will be unservedly pleased and proud at your success. You should never stop communication with your parents, but they are not the sole point of support for you."

Nick Carter agrees. "I've kind of realised that I've just got to stop expecting Dad to be proud, to be interested. Instead I talk to my brother, to my mates - not about how much I earn but about my day at work and what it consists of. I do mind that dad seems to be unable to get over his politics and that my success seems to make him feel bad. But I won't feel guilty - and if he can't be pleased for me, then I'll talk to someone who is."

continue. Theo discuss some possible work solutions - perhaps she could have more flexible working patterns which will allow for the ups and downs of her illness, or she could be transferred to a less demanding job within the company.

Ask for temporary help to bridge the gap when she isn't around. Are senior management ignoring the problem because they feel there is nothing they can do about her? This may not be the case. You will need legal advice, but it is possible to dismiss someone on the grounds of incapacity. It may sound harsh but if her illness is never going to get any better and she can't fulfil her contractual obligations to you, it is not fair to her or your company to expect her to perform in a job.

Angela Barron
Institute of Personnel and
Development Policy Advisor

Compiled by CARMEN FIELDING
If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Fielding, Fast Track, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-233 2182; e-mail c.fielding@independent.co.uk

MANCHESTER GRADUATE RECRUITMENT FAIR

THE ARMITAGE CENTRE, MOSELEY RD, FALLOWFIELD,
MANCHESTER 24 & 25 JUNE 10AM - 4PM

THIS YEAR'S buoyant job market and strong demand for graduates make June and July an ideal time to plan your future and start job hunting. Summer Fairs have proven to be one of the most effective ways for graduates to get fixed-up with jobs once they have left university, and the Manchester Fair is the pick of the bunch.

Alison Gregory, local organiser of the Manchester Fair, stresses the importance of advance preparation: "The employers have real jobs they want to fill now. As with any other meeting with an employer, prepare well in advance and you boost your chances of being one of the ones they choose."

The Armitage Centre, where the

Fair takes place, is about three miles south of the city centre. It is on a frequent bus route out of the centre, and has ample parking.

A free private bus service runs from Piccadilly Railway station and Oxford Road Railway station to the Fair, every 20 minutes between 9.40am and 12 noon.

If you would like more information, contact Alison Gregory on 0161-275 2828 or e-mail alison.gregory@man.ac.uk. You can also visit the Manchester University Web-site: (<http://www.man.ac.uk/careers/>). The site has all the latest information about exhibitors and their vacancies.

Good luck!



THE EXHIBITORS

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE

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Amadeus Development Co SA
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Asda Stores Ltd
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Bass Leisure Retail
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DESG Defence Engineering and Science Group
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THURSDAY 25 JUNE

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The Carphone Warehouse
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Flexsys Rubber Chemicals Ltd
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GPT Limited
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The University of Manchester
& UMIST Careers Service

I AM the head of a small department with a long-term absentee employee, which is making my workload intolerable. Senior management seem completely uninterested and have refused to have anything to do with the situation, although I have almost begged for support.

The member of staff in question is litigious and wholly unconcerned about the effect her lengthy and frequent absences have on anyone else. She has been diagnosed as having a mild form of an untreatable illness and is unable to function efficiently when she is at work. I'm being made to feel lacking in compassion when actually I feel as though I might crack up!

The senior management have recently been strongly criticised for the non-existent staff development on offer, and I am strongly aware that "holding the fort" has prevented me from pursuing and developing all sorts of projects.

Am I being unreasonable? I have recently applied for another job, but I actually feel as if I'm being forced out. Virginia, Wokingham

Give yourself the best opportunity to manage the situation by facing it directly now. Obtain as much information as possible regarding

HELP DESK

YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE EXPERTS

'I feel as if I might crack up!'

company policy/practice regarding sickness/absenteeism. Request an independent specialist doctor's report on her condition and the effects on her work. The onus is on the employer to behave reasonably, and on the employee to co-operate with an investigation of this type.

Demonstrate compassion openly while also addressing the issue fairly yet firmly in accordance with policy guidelines. Tell the individual that you are concerned about her absenteeism; that you are monitoring it and that you want to work with her to find the best solution. Tell your line manager that you want support and insist that you meet regularly to discuss/report progress.

Depending on the doctor's prognosis, some options to explore might be counselling, special equipment, or part-time work in her present role; helping her to find another more appropriate role internally or externally; early retirement due to ill health; or a disciplinary process,

which could eventually lead to dismissal. The key is to record information throughout e.g. everyone's absenteeism rates, and all your discussions on the topic. Hilary Wilmsey, Human Resources Partnership, author of *Transform Your Management Style* (Kogan Page 1998)

There are three related problems in this situation. The first is the sick employee. Absence should be treated consistently throughout an organisation, but that does not mean that an employer cannot be more generous, especially to an employee with an untreatable illness.

The second is the additional burden the absence is placing on you. The Employment Appeal Tribunal decided in *Whitbread plc v/a Thresher v Gullies* 1994 that an employer who did not provide sufficient support for a manager, and so made her job very difficult, was in breach of his implied duty of mutual

trust and confidence, which would enable the employee to bring a successful claim of unfair dismissal. Obviously this is a question of degree. Even if your own difficulties are great, your first step should be to raise the matter with your manager, formally if informal attempts have so far failed, and to seek a practical solution to your difficulties.

The third problem is your health. If your health is affected, or likely to be, this too should be drawn to your manager's attention. Your employer has a duty to take reasonable steps to avoid or minimise stress caused by your work - but must be aware of the problem first. Olga Aikin, Senior Partner, Aikin Driver Partnership, Employment Law Advisers

First of all, try to get more information from your member of staff. Have a meeting and let her know that you both need to recognise there is a problem and the situation can't

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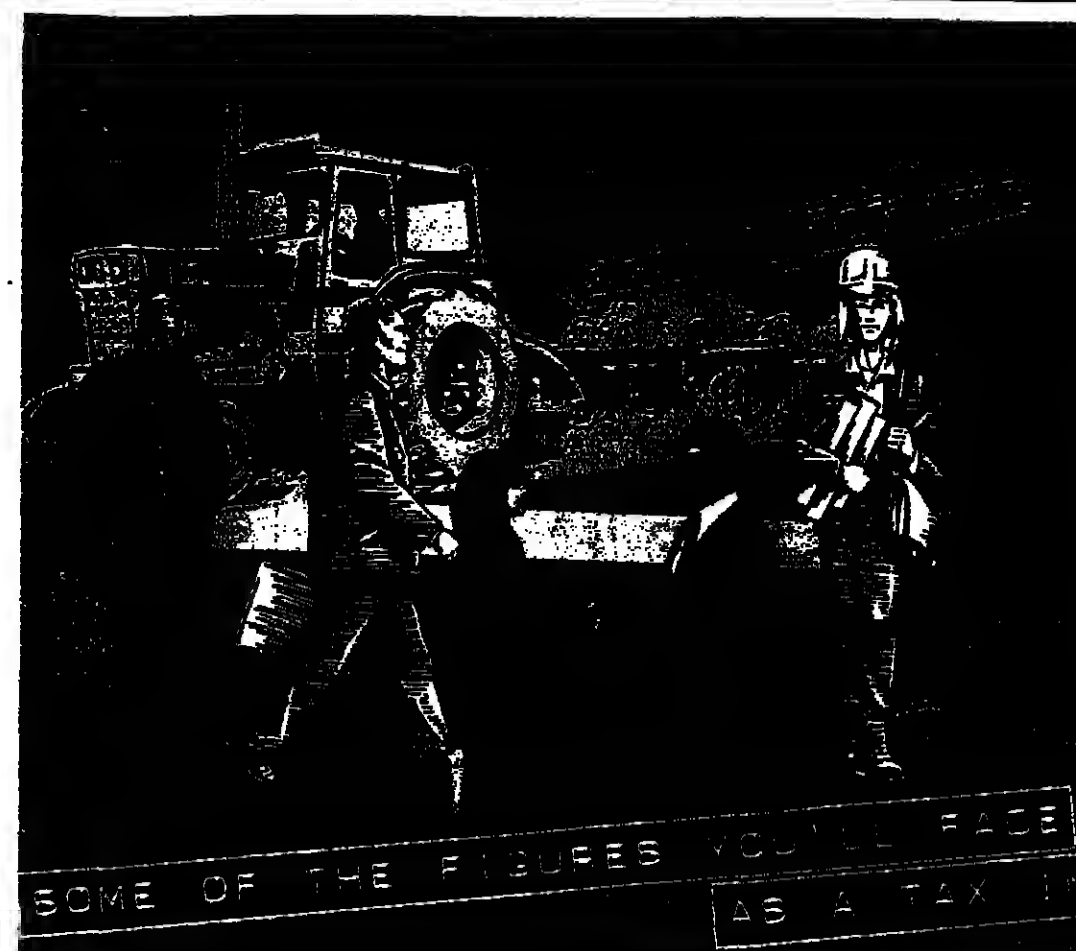
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All replies will be handled in strict confidence. Applications from internal candidates will be welcomed.

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NEW FILMS

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)
Director: Roberto Bagnara
Starring: Joanna Ward, John Thompson
If you believe what you see in *The Girl with Brains in Her Feet*, then Leicester was the most over-sexed city in England at the start of the 1970s. No wonder the film's teenage heroine, Jack (Joanna Ward), is in such a tizzy with her hormones - at just 13 years old, she has to contend with an English teacher who reads the raciest passages of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* aloud to his class in hushed, seductive tones, and an art tutor who unveils a baby-oiled Adonis as the new life-drawing project.

THE APOSTLE (12)
Director: Robert Duvall
Starring: Robert Duvall, Farrah Fawcett, Billy Bob Thornton, Miranda Richardson
Robert Duvall's direction is elegant and cool, but his performance as the preacher obsessed with and possessed by God is outstanding for all the opposite reasons. Duvall plunges into the role of Sonny in the same way that Sonny is engulfed by his religion, and the effect is terrifying and entrancing all at once.

THE BIG SWAP (18)
Director: Niall Johnson
Starring: Mark Adams, Sorcha Brooks
Taking off from the key party in *The Ice Storm*, this follows a group of five couples whose lives disintegrate when they start swapping partners. A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama played out against Sunday supplement locations.

THE GRASS HARP (PG)
Director: Charles Matthau
Starring: Walter Matthau, Jack Lemmon, Sissy Spacek, Mary Steenburgen, Piper Laurie, Charles Durning, Roddy McDowall
An adaptation of Truman Capote's novel about the lives and loves that intersect in a southern American town in the 1940s. Unfortunately, it plays rather drably, like a particularly humdrum episode of *The Waltons*. A fine cast has been assembled to

little effect, and Charles Matthau gets unimpressive results from directing his father, Walter.

SOUL FOOD (15)
Director: George Tillman Jr
Starring: Vanessa L. Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long, Michael Beach
A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. Only the marvellously sassy Mekhi Phifer (*Clockers*) emerges with dignity intact.

A THOUSAND ACRES (15)
Director: Jocelyn Moorhouse
Starring: Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Jason Roberts
When a crotchety but revered farmer (Jason Roberts) decides to divide up his land between his three daughters, he is aghast that the youngest (Jennifer Jason Leigh) should question his actions, and promptly excludes her from proceedings - not because it's a plausible reaction, but rather because *A Thousand Acres* has *King Lear* as its template. Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer get to do a lot of crying and bonding, but their talents are wasted, and the film's final bid for tear-jerker status is cold and calculated.

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)
Director: Gary Sinyor
Starring: Peter Ustinov, Prunella Scales, Samuel West, Sean Pertwee, Georgina Cates
A series of inspired riffs on Merchant/Ivory productions, this is one of the most cheerfully pleasurable British movies in recent memory.

HOTEL DE LOVE (15)
Director: Craig Rosenberg
Starring: Aden Young, Saffron Burrows, Simon Boswell, Pippa Granison
An Australian romantic comedy, severely hampered by the fact that its leading man looks like a more deranged version of Anthony Perkins

Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

TODAY IS National Road Movie Day. Or maybe I'm making it up. Anyway, let's assume it is. So what better reason than to catch up on the wonderful *Western*, which isn't a western at all, but a breezy ramble around Britain in the company of two mismatched drifters - a disgruntled shoe salesman and the runty little thief who stole his car. A touch anecdotal, but utterly charming just the same.

Watershed, Bristol (0117-925 3845) 5.45pm.

8.20pm; Glasgow Film Theatre (0141-332 8128) 8.15pm
Paris, Texas is a western, of course, and a road movie, too - it's Wim Wenders' loose remake of *The Searchers*, with Harry Dean Stanton as the wanderer who appears out of nowhere to seek out his estranged wife (Nastassja Kinski, above). Ry Cooder's dusty, twangy score, and the pain in the creases of Stanton's face, will stay in your head forever. I think it's the last great film that Wenders made.
Cornerhouse, Manchester (0161-200 1500) 5.10pm, 8pm

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

THE PAIRING of two short Sixties farces, Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* and Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy*, has proved an artistic and commercial triumph for Warehouse Productions, the company set up by Sam Mendes to bring more challenging fare into the West End. *Hound*, a spoof thriller that embroils two theatre critics in its own schemata, paves the way perfectly for the cerebral in-the-dark buffoonery of *Black Comedy*.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, London SW1 (0171-369 1731) 7.30pm

Paul Taylor described Laurence Boswell's production of *Bartholomew Fair* (right) as "the most brilliantly entertaining breach of the peace the RSC has served up in a long time", and most critics agreed. Ben Jonson's sprawling Jacobean comedy is set in the notorious fair that took place in Smithfield on St Bartholomew's Day, but Boswell has imposed a riotous Nottingham Hill carnival feel to it. It may seem like it lasts all night, but bustling performances all round allow you to join in the double-dealing, anti-puritanical fun.
RSC Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (01789 295623) 7.30pm



Classical Music Duncan Hadfield

THE A CAPELLA sextet, *The King's Singers*, incredibly notch up their 30th anniversary this year, yet continue to sing out loud with a range of vibrant, up-to-the-minute repertoire, as they team up with virtuoso percussionist Evelyn Glennie (right). Steve Marland, Michael Gordon, David Horne and even Paul Simon are among the eclectic line-up of composers represented.
Bridgegate Hall, Manchester (0161-507 9000) 7.30pm



Handel fever mounts: the Italian opera seria *Rodelinda* at Glyndebourne and now, a later, under-aired, English oratorio about another formidable lady - the Old Testament Athalia - in the annual Handel oratorio performance from the prestigious Luffhansa Festival of Baroque Music. Staunch Handelians Ivor Bolton conducts his own St James's Baroque Players, the choir of Clare College Cambridge and an impressive quintet of vocal soloists including Lynne Dawson in the title role.
St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-222 1061) 7pm.

Visual Art Richard Ingleby

THE MATERIAL that an artist chooses to paint on, regardless of the artist, regardless of the time and place in which they work, might seem rather like a loose link between one painting and another, but Rosanna Wilson Stephens has used the theme of paint on panel as an excuse to assemble a delightful exhibition. In particular, there are three large and wonderfully stylish panels by Jacob Kramer (right) and an utterly beautiful little landscape sketch by Augustus John. The show only runs four days but is well worth seeing.
Wilson Stephens Fine Art, 11 Cavendish Road, London NW6 (0181-4508 0760) to 20 Jun.



It is appropriate that a touring exhibition of work by Mary Potter should start at the Aldeburgh Festival, for she lived in this seaside town for the last 30 years of her life, and it was here that her work shifted towards the sort of quiet, landscape-based abstraction for which she is best remembered. "Enchanting moments of heightened perception", in the words of Sir Kenneth Clarke.
Peter Pears Gallery, High St, Aldeburgh, Suffolk (01728 453543) to 28 Jun.

GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERGLOW (15)
Two couples - fifty-somethings Nick Nolte and Julie Christie, and twenty-somethings Lara Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller - swap partners and wry aphorisms in the latest urbane comedy from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)
"Dude" Lebowski (Jeff Bridges) is a long-haired relic from the 1970s who spends his days bumming around Los Angeles getting stoned and going bowling with his buddies. But there's another Lebowski in the vicinity and a case of mistaken identity sparks off one of the most strung-out mysteries ever.

BLUES BROTHERS 2000 (PG)
Eighteen years after the release of the startlingly unfunny *The Blues Brothers*, John Landis and his co-writer Dan Aykroyd have contrived to resurrect the story of Elwood Blues (Aykroyd) who, after the death of his brother, re-emerges from prison and decides to put the old band back together. The film is certainly all-out stupid, but it is also rather endearing.

THE BUTCHER BOY (15)
Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly comic novel about a maniac, precocious 12-year-old in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill about it that is genuinely seductive. Jordan's depiction of the world as seen through the deranged eyes of young Francis (the astounding Eamon Owens) is so rich and unsparring that it pulls you into the movie in the manner of a Grimm fairytale.

DAD SAVAGE (18)
Patrick Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play a pulp-growing, Country & Western-obsessed, East Anglian crime boss in this worthy attempt at re-inventing the British thriller.

DARK CITY (15)
Alex Proyas, director of *The Crow*, returns with another over-the-top urban nightmare. Amnesia-suspected serial-killer Rufus Sewell is pursued by four inspectors (William Hurt and Richard O'Brien as one of a sinister breed of aliens known as "The Strangers").

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)
Woody Allen's most honest and intelligent film in more than a decade.

DEEP IMPACT (12)
A meteor the size of New York is on a collision course with the Earth unless astronaut Robert Duvall can intercept it. Ropy characterisation and a complete absence of wit are only the worst things about this heavy-handed disaster movie.

FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)
A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1965 classic.

THE GENERAL (15)
John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who ran rans from the Garda with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1994.

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)
Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on, in this disarming drama.

JACKIE BROWN (15)
In *Jackie Brown*, the enigmatic flight attendant (Pam Grier) and mobster Ordel (Samuel L. Jackson) whose she's moonlighting for take centre stage. But the movie's main focus is the desperation of each of its characters to make something of their lives before it's too late.

LIVE FLESH (18)
A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

LOLITA (18)
Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure.

LOVE ETC (15)
The meandering French drama stars Charlotte Gainsbourg as a woman torn between her husband and his best friend.

THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS (U)
A welcome re-release for Orson Wells's 1942 near-masterpiece about a wealthy family whose conflicting emotions tear them apart.

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)
This intermittently engaging romantic comedy sees Martha, an American visiting London on a whim, going on separate dates with three men who turn out to be best friends.

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
Hanif Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable, progressive Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim.

NOWHERE (18)
One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to the nihilistic landscape of *The Doom Generation* with another hallucinatory journey through an LA underground inhabited by young ambisexual drifters, sado-masochists, airheads - and, this time around, a few aliens for good measure.

ONCE UPON A TIME... WHEN WE WERE COLORED (NC)
Nostalgic look back to life in 1940s Mississippi.

THE REAL BLONDE (15)
Tom DiCillo's prickly satire on the fashion industry doesn't have enough original or incidental ideas to go around, but it is charmingly played by a game cast, and littered with surprises and fizzy one-liners.

RED CORNER (15)
Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda.

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat.

SLIDING DOORS (15)
A romantic comedy set in the space-time continuum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors (John Hannah and John Lynch).

STAR KID (PG)
Amiable children's adventure about a young boy (Joseph Mazzello from *Jurassic Park*) who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination.

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
The winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, and it's not hard to see why, it's a hypnotic and moving experience.

TITANIC (12)
Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene wealth, but has deserted her fiancé at the last minute for Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a ragamuffin from the wrong side of the tracks.

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
Bringing up the rear of the latest Henry James boom comes the story of a moony New York heiress (Jennifer Jason Leigh) whose dour father (Albert Finney) furthurs her marriage to a dashing but penniless suitor (Ben Chaplin).

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (*Saturday Night Live*'s Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore).

CINEMA WEST END

AFTERGLOW (15)
Odeon Haymarket 2pm, 6pm, 8.35pm (+ Short Stump)
THE APOSTLE (12)
Screen on the Hill 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Screen on the Green 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Berkeley Screen 6pm, 8.40pm Notting Hill Caravan 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Empire Leicester Square 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Ritzy Cinema 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm

AS GOOD AS IT GETS (15)
ABC Pantoa Street 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
LE BALLON D'OR (U)
Ritzy Cinema 1.50pm

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)
Virgin Fulham Road 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm ABC Pantoa Street 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Phoenix Cinema 3.40pm Odeon Camden Town 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9.05pm
Warner Village West End 1pm, 3.50pm, 9.30pm UCI Whiteleys 7.15pm

THE BIG SWAP (18)
Virgin Fulham Road 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.15pm Plaza 12.35pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

DAD SAVAGE (18)
ABC Piccadilly 1.25pm, 6.05pm

DARK CITY (15)
Warner Village West End 11.55am, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm Odeon Marble Arch 12.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.55pm
Warner Village West End 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)
Phoenix Cinema 1.15pm, 9pm
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

DEEP IMPACT (12)
Empire Leicester Square 12noon, 3pm, 6pm Odeon Marble Arch 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm UCI Whiteleys 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm
Virgin Tricadero 12noon, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm

THE GENERAL (15)
Virgin Haymarket 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Ritzy Cinema 3.30pm, 6.20pm (+ Short: Dance Lesson Dance) Warner Village West End 1.05pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Odeon Camden Town 12.05pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)
Ritzy Cinema 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm ABC Panton Street 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Tottenham Court Road 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

GOOD WILL HUNTING (15)
ABC Panton St 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

THE GRASS HARP (PG)
ABC Piccadilly 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)
ABC Piccadilly 3.50pm, 8.40pm

HAPPY TOGETHER (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 8.20pm

HOTEL DE LOVE (15)
Warner Village West End 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Virgin Tricadero 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm UCI Whiteleys 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

JACKIE BROWN (15)
Plaza 12.50pm

KUNDUN (12)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 8.20pm

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (18)
Phoenix Cinema 6.15pm

LIVE FLESH (18)
Gate Notting Hill 4.30pm, 9.05pm Curzon Maida Vale 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Odeon Camden Town 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Metro 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Screen on Baker Street 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
Richmond Picturehouse 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Ritzy Cinema 9.10pm Newel 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm

LOLITA (18)
Warner Village West End 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Virgin Haymarket 1.30pm, 5.15pm, 8pm
MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)
Virgin Chelsea 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Odeon West End 4.05pm, 8.50pm

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 3.55pm, 8.40pm

NOWHERE (18)
Metro 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

THE REAL BLONDE (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.30pm, 6pm

RED CORNER (15)
Odeon Marble Arch 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9.20pm Plaza 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Virgin Fulham Road 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Virgin Tricadero 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm UCI Whiteleys 6.10pm, 9.45pm

THE SCARLET TUNIC (12)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.35pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

SCREAM 2 (18)
Warner Village West End 3.20pm, 8.50pm

SHALL WE DANCE? (PG)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

SLIDING DOORS (15)
UCI Whiteleys 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Empire Leicester Square 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8pm
Virgin Tricadero 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm
Virgin Fulham Road 2.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.55pm ABC Baker Street 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm

SOUL FOOD (15)
UCI Whiteleys 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9pm
Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Odeon Kensington 6.50pm, 9.30pm
Ritzy Cinema 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Virgin Tricadero 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Warner Village West End 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)
Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Plaza 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
Warner Village West End 11.45am, 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm UCI Whiteleys 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm

STRAIGHT NO CHASER (PG)
Phoenix Cinema 6.15pm + Round Midnight

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
Renoir 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

A THOUSAND ACRES (15)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Curzon Mayfair 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Virgin Fulham Road 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Clapham Picture House 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Odeon Camden Town 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

TITANIC (12)
Warner Village West End 12noon, 4pm, 6pm Odeon Marble Arch 11.45am, 3.55pm, 6pm

U.S. MARSHALS (15)
Warner Village West End 12.30pm, 6pm

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
Gate Notting Hill 2.05pm, 8.40pm
Virgin Haymarket 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Screen on Baker Street 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Chelsea Cinema 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
Barbican Screen 6.30pm, 8.40pm Clapham Picture House 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Odeon Marble Arch 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm Ritzy Cinema 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Odeon Kensington 7.10pm, 9.40pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm ABC Baker

Street 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Odeon Camden Town 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm UCI Whiteleys 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm Odeon West End 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

WILD THINGS (18)
Odeon Marble Arch 3.05pm, 8.50pm Odeon West End 1.20pm, 6.20pm

WISHMASTER (18)
Warner Village West End 9.50pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-886 0066) Park Royal Park City 2.50pm, 7.10pm
Deconstructing Harry 6.40pm Deep Impact 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm
Red Corner 1.10pm, 4pm, 9.20pm
The Replacement Killers 6pm, 8.05pm, 10.15pm
Scream 2 9.30pm Sliding Doors 4.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Soul Food 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.50pm
Star Kid 5.10pm Sluff Upper Lips 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 5.45pm, 7.55pm, 10.05pm
Titanic 1.10pm, 5.10pm
The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

BARKING
ODEON (0181-507 8444) Barking The Big Lebowski 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
Blues Brothers 2000 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
Deep Impact 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Mousetrap 12.55pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm
Sluff Upper Lips 12.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm
The Wedding Singer 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
Wishmaster 7pm, 9.05pm

BARNET
ODEON (0181-315 4210) High Barnet Blues Brothers 2000 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
Deep Impact 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
The Scarlet Tunic 2.35pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm
Sluff Upper Lips 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 8.45pm, 9pm
The Wedding Singer 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEMARK (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath Blues Brothers 2000 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm
City of Angels 6.45pm, 9.20pm
Deep Impact 11.15am, 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
Picture Perfect 12noon, 6pm, 8.20pm
Scream 2 9.40pm
Seven Years in Tibet 3pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm
The Replacement Killers 7.50pm, 10pm
Scream 2 11.40am, 4.40pm, 9.55pm
Seven Years in Tibet 3pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Soul Food 11.50am, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm
Sluff Upper Lips 11.50am, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.30pm
A Thousand Acres 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm
Titanic 12noon, 4pm, 6pm
The Wedding Singer 12.50pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm
Wishmaster 9.45pm

SIDCUP (0541-555131) BR Sidcup Marlin
- West Frank, Daniel
1.30pm, 5.40pm The Wedding Singer
1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907071) BR: Cricke-
wood Deep Impact 3pm, 5.45pm,
8.30pm Red Corner 2.10pm, 5.20pm,
8.30pm The Replacement Killers
1.45pm, 3.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Sliding
Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Soul
Food 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm The
Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902015) BR: Streatham Hill
Deep Impact 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Soul Food 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (0553-3366) BR: Stratford East
The Real Blonde 3pm, 5.50pm Soul
Food 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm
Titanic 3.30pm, 7.40pm The Wedding
Singer 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm

SUTTON
UCI (0930-888990) BR: Sutton
/ Morden Blues Brothers 2000
3.30pm Deep Impact 3.15pm, 5pm,
8.45pm Red Corner 3.45pm, 6.30pm
Boreham 2 6.15pm Sliding Doors
4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Titanic 4pm, 8pm,
The Wedding Singer 4.15pm, 6.45pm,
9.15pm Wild Things 9pm
Wistmaster 4.50pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORNET (0181-888 2519)
/ Turnpike Lane The General 2.30pm,
5.30pm, 8pm Red Corner 3.20pm,
5.55pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer
4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813139) / Uxbridge
Deep Impact 1.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm
The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 4pm,
6.25pm, 8.45pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902042) / Walthamstow
Central Deep Impact 2.30pm, 5.30pm
Soul Food 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm
The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 4pm,
5.55pm, 8.30pm Wistmaster 4.50pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON
(01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames
Sliding Doors 3.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm,
6.35pm, 8.50pm

WELL HALL
CORNET (0181-850 3351)
BR: Elnor The Big Lebowski 3.15pm,
5.50pm, 8.10pm The Wedding Singer
4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222)
BR: / Wimbledon The Big Lebowski
2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm Deep Impact
2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Live Flesh
1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Slid-
ing Doors 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm,
8.40pm The Wedding Singer 1.10pm,
3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-889 3463) / South
Woodford The Big Lebowski 8.10pm
Deep Impact 2.10pm, 5.10pm Sliding
Doors 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The
Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm,
6.10pm, 8.30pm

WOOLWICH
CORNET (0181-854 5043) BR:
Woolwich Arsenal Deep Impact 3.15pm,
5.50pm, 8.20pm The Replacement
Killers 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON
EVERYMAN Hollywood Vale NW3
(0171-435 1525) Alibi (PG)
1.15pm, 4.45pm + Une Femme Mar-
ried 3pm Sliding Doors (15) 7pm, 9pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647)
Nostalgia 1.15pm, 7pm, 9pm

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684
0201) The Chronicle DI Anna
Magdalena Bach (U) 6.30pm + Short
The Film Court: Carol Morley
And Cairo Cannon in Conversation
(U) 8.30pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274)
Titanic (12) 2pm Sat-Fri-Patrick
Dempsey (PG) 6.15pm The Blue
Dahlia (NC) 6.30pm High Noon (PG)
7.30pm Variety Girl: Veronica Lake
(NC) 8.30pm Amateur (15) 8.45pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly
Circuit W1 (0171-494 4153) Everest
(U) 11.15am, 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm,
7.35pm, 9.40pm Across The Sea Of
Time - A New York Adventure (3-D)
(U) 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm,
8.35pm, 10.40pm

PHOENIX High Road N2
(0181-883 2233) Afterglow (15) 1pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Deconstructing
Harry (18) 1.15pm, 9pm The Big
Lebowski (11) 3.45pm L.A.
Confidential (18) 6.15pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) The Sweet
Heather (15) 1.30pm Face/Off (16)
3.45pm The Ice Storm (16) 6.30pm The
Telling Film Series: O And A With Mike
Figgis (NC) 9pm The Telling Film Se-
ries: Mike Figgis (NC) 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road
W6 (0181-741 2255) cc 420 (1000) Fire
Easy Films (16) 6.30pm + As Good
As It Gets 8.30pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE
High Street, Brentford, Middle (0181-568
1176) Kundera (12) 4.30pm Live Flesh
(18) 7pm Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel
& Laurence (15) 9pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA
(01273-626261) The Real Blonde (15)
4.15pm, 5pm Washington Square (PG)
1.45pm, 6.30pm

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
Western (15) 5.45pm, 8.20pm
Afterglow (15) 6pm The Man to Her
Like (NC) 8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS (01223-504444) Liar (18)
12.45pm, 7.20pm The Real Blonde (15)
3pm, 5.30pm Oscar And Lucinda (15) 5pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE
(01222-399666) Hell Drivers (PG)
The Life Story Of David Lloyd
George: With Live Music (NC) 7pm
Accident (15) 7.30pm

IPSWICH
FILM THEATRE (01473-215544)
Washington Square (PG) 2.30pm,
5.15pm, 8.30pm Western (15) 6pm,
8.30pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) The
Boxer (15) 2.30pm, 5.45pm
Twentyfourseven (15) 8.15pm

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114)
Junk Mail (15) 8pm

CINEMA

COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON
ABC EAST STREET (01273-
327010) Sliding Doors (15), The Grass
Harp (PG), The Wedding Singer (12)
ODEON (01273-207877) The Big
Lebowski (18), The Replacement Killers (18),
The Wedding Singer (12), Deep Impact
(12), City Of Angels (12), A Thousand
Acres (15), Soul Food (15), Dark City
(15), Mouseshunt (PG)

VIRGIN (0541-555145) Screen 2 (18),
City Of Angels (12), The Replacement
Killers (18), Mouseshunt (PG), Sliding
Doors (15), Red Corner (15), Star Kid (PG),
Sliding Doors (15), Deep Impact (12),
The Wedding Singer (12), The Wedding
Singer (12), Flubber (U)

BRISTOL
ARNOLEFNI (0117-929 9191)
Ulysses' Gaze (PG), The Hunters
(18), Shall We Dance? (PG)

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES
(01275-831093) Red Corner (15), In
& Out (12), Sliding Doors (15), The Re-
placement Killers (18), A Thousand
Acres (15), Deep Impact (12), Seven
Years in Tibet (PG), Flubber (U), Mouseshunt
(PG), Wistmaster (18), Screen 2 (18),
Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence
(15), Blues Brothers 2000 (PG), Babe (U),
City Of Angels (12), The Devil's Advocate (18),
Dark City (15), The Big Lebowski (18),
The Wedding Singer (12), Titanic (12),
Anastasia (U), Sarbanes Deal Guru
Gobind Singh (PG), Picture Perfect (PG),
Star Kid (PG), The Apostle (12),
Still Upper Lips (15)

ORPHEUS HENLEAZE (0117-962
1644) Sliding Doors (15),
Deep Impact (12), Washington Square
(PG), Prince Valiant (PG)

ODEON (0117-929 0862), Flubber (U),
George Of The Jungle (U), Screen 2 (18),
The Remains Of The Day (U),
The Wedding Singer (12), Dark City (15),
City Of Angels (12), The Land
Before Time (U)

ABC WHITELADES RD (0117-873
3640), Deep Impact (12), City Of Angels
(12), Sliding Doors (15), Red Corner (15)

EASTBOURNE
CURZON (01323-731441), Wild
Things (18), Blues Brothers 2000 (PG),
Washington Square (PG), The Wood-
landers (PG), Paradise Road (15), Les
Voleurs (18), The Tango Lesson (PG),
Star Kid (PG)

VIRGIN (0541-555159), Deep Impact
(12), A Thousand Acres (15), Star Kid
(PG), The Wedding Singer (12),
The Replacement Killers (18), Sliding
Doors (15), Flubber (U), Mouseshunt
(PG), City Of Angels (12), Red Corner
(15), Still Upper Lips (15)

NEWPORT
ABC (01633-254326), Deep Impact (12),
Titanic (12), The Wedding Singer (12),
VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-550516),
Still Upper Lips (15), Wistmaster (18),
Titanic (12), Star Kid (PG),
Hotel De France (15), The Replacement
Killers (18), Blues Brothers 2000 (PG),
A Thousand Acres (15), Dark City (15),
Deep Impact (12), Screen 2 (18),
Mouseshunt (PG), The Wedding Singer (12),
Flubber (U), City Of Angels (12)

NORWICH
ABC (0541-560567)
The Borrowers (U) Deep Impact (12)
The Grass Harp (PG) Mouseshunt
(PG) Red Corner (15) Sliding Doors
(15) Spiceworld - The Movie (PG)
Titanic (12) Way The Dog (15)

ODEON (01603-661832) Anastasia
(U) Been (PG) The Boxer (15) City Of
Angels (12) Dark City (15) Flubber (U)
Road Dab's Matilda (PG) Screen 2 (18)
Spiceworld - The Movie (PG) The
Wedding Singer (12)

PORTSMOUTH
ABC (01705-823338), Sliding Doors
(15), The Grass Harp (PG), Deep
Impact (12)

ODEON (01705-823338), Anastasia
(U), Flubber (U), The Wedding Singer
(12), George Of The Jungle (U), Wis-
tmaster (18), Paws (PG), Fairytale: A
True Story (U), Amistad (15), City Of
Angels (12), Dark City (15), The
Replacement Killers (18)

UCI (0550-989990), Red Corner (15),
Blues Brothers 2000 (PG),
(12), Wild Things (18), City Of Angels
(12), Titanic (12), Screen 2 (18),
William Shakespeare's Romeo
& Juliet (12), Sliding Doors (15),
Mouseshunt (PG), The Wedding Singer
(12), Wistmaster (18), Star Kid (PG),
The Devil's Advocate (18), Anastasia (U)

STEVENAGE
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES
(01438-740310), Sliding Doors (15),
The Wedding Singer (12), Seven
Years in Tibet (PG), Red Corner (15),
City Of Angels (12), A Thousand
Acres (15), Anastasia (U),
Dark City (15), Wild Things (18),
The Devil's Advocate (18), Martha - Meet
Frank, Daniel & Laurence (15), Still
Upper Lips (15), Deep Impact (12),
Titanic (12), Screen 2 (18),
Wistmaster (18), Blues Brothers
2000 (PG), In & Out (12), Star Kid (PG),
Duplicate (PG), Mouseshunt (PG), Pic-
ture Perfect (PG), The Replacement
Killers (18), Babe (U)

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today;
times, and prices for the week running
times include intervals. — Seats at all
prices — Seats at some prices —
Returns only Matinee — (1): Sun, (2):
Tue, (4): Wed, (5): Thu, (6): Fri, (7): Sat

○ **ART** Richard Griffiths, Tony
Haygarth, Malcolm Storry In Yasmina
Reza's comedy about art and friendship:
Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) / Leicester
Sq, Tue-Sat 8pm, (4) 7pm, (7) 11pm,
£9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

○ **AS YOU LIKE IT**
Shakespeare's literary comedy contrasting
the court and the natural world.
The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-
401 9919) / London Bridge, In rep,
tonight 7.30pm, £5-£20, cones available.

○ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**
Lavish family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale.
Dominion Tottenham Court Rd, W1
(0171-656 1888) / Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-
Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, £17.50-
£32.50, 150 mins.

○ **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy
Russell's long-running Liverpool
musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
/ Leicester Sq, Tue-Sat 7.45pm,
(5) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £10.50-£23.50, 165
mins.

○ **BUDDY** Musical biog-show
tracking the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800)
/ Covent Garden/Charing X, Tue-Thu 8pm,
Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm &
8.30pm, mats (1) 4pm, £6.75-£30, 160
mins.

○ **CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical
version of TS Eliot's poems.
New London Park Street, WC2 (0171-
405 0072/cc 404 4079) / Covent Gar-
den/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (3) 7pm,
£12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

○ **CHICAGO** Ruthie Henshall stars
in this hit Broadway musical.
Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344
0055) / Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm, (4) 7pm,
£2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130
mins.

○ **CLOSER** Superb study of
contemporary sexual relationships from
Dele's Choice author Patrick Marber.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-
494 5045) / Picc. Circ, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, £5-£27.50,
140 mins.

○ **THE COMPLETE WORKS
OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
(ABRIDGED)** Reduced Shakespeare
Company best-known through 37 plays.
Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-
369 1747) / Picc. Circ, Wed-Sat 8pm,
(5) 3pm, (7) 5pm, (1) 4pm, £9.50-£20,
120 mins.

○ **ELTON JOHN'S
GLASSES** David Farr's comedy
about one man's obsession with the
football club and their failure to win the
Cup Final in 1984. Queen's Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5990/cc 344
4444) / Picc. Circ, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat
8pm, (4) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £10.50-£27.50,
100 mins.

○ **GAS STATION ANGEL**
Story of two lovers who are told to meet
from the creator of House of America. Not
suitable for children. Royal Court
Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West
Street, WC2 (0171-656 5000) / Leicester
Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (7) 4pm, £10-£20,
£16, cones available.

○ **GREASE** Marissa Dunlop stars in
the stage version of the hit film.
Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-
494 5080) / Covent Garden, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, £10-£30,
150 mins.

○ **HOW I LEARNED TO
DRIVE** Paula Vogel's drama about the
incestuous relationship between a teenager
and her uncle. Denham Warehouse
Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732)
/ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, £12-
£16, cones available.

○ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**
Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of
Wilde's comedy. Albany St Martin's Lane,
WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 867 1111)
/ Leicester Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5) 3pm,
(7) 4pm, £7.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

○ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**
Stephen Daldry's widely acclaimed
production of J.B. Priestley's thriller.
Garrett Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-494 5085) / Leicester Sq, Mon-Fri
7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7)
5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

○ **KAT AND THE KINGS**
Musical set in 1950s Cape Town.
Vendeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836
9987) BR/Charing X, Mon-Thu 8pm,
Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, £6.25-£27.50,
130 mins.

○ **A LETTER OF
RESIGNATION** Hugh Whitemore's
play about the Puritan and political
morality. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-
836 8888/cc 836 0479) / Charing
X/Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4)
3pm, (7) 4pm, £12.50-£25, 135 mins.

○ **MAJOR BARBARA** Jenna
Redgrave and Peter Bowles star in George
Bernard Shaw's classic comedy.
Piccadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-
369 1734) / Picc. Circ, In rep, today
2.30pm & 7.45pm, continuing, £8.50-
£27.50.

○ **THE MERCHANT OF
VENICE** Shakespeare's cross-
cultural comedy. The Globe New Globe
Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) / London
Bridge, In rep, tonight 7.30pm, £5-£20,
cones available.

○ **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S
DREAM** Classic tale of love and
confusion set in the fairy kingdom. Open
Air Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486
2431/cc 486 1933) / Baker Street, In rep,
today 2.30pm & 8pm, ends 5 Sep,
£8-£20.

○ **LES MISERABLES** Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's sprawling
19th-century masterpiece. Palace
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434
0909) / Picc. Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
(5) 7.30pm, £7-£32.50, 195 mins.

○ **MISS SAIGON** Musical which
resets the Madame Butterfly tragedy in
Vietnam. Royal, Drury Lane Catherine
Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) / Covent
Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm,
£5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

○ **THE REAL INSPECTOR
HOUND & BLACK COMEDY**
Douglas Bill of drama from Tom Stoppard
and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory
Doran. Comedy Parton Street, SW1
(0171-369 1731) / Picc. Circ, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, £7-£20, £7.50-
£27.50, 165 mins.

○ **RENT** Musical inspired by La
Bohème and set in modern-day New York.
Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2
(0171-379 5399) / Holborn/Tot Ct Rd,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, £12.50-
£32.50, 160 mins.

○ **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE**
○ **OLIVER** An Enemy Of The People
An McKellen stars in a new version of
Ibsen's explosive critical drama. In rep,
tonight 7.15pm, ends 20 Jun, 180 mins.
○ **Colossus: The Day I Stood Still**
Kevin Elyot's new play, directed by Ian
Rickson, is based on a friendship forged
in the 1960s. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends
27 Jun, 110 mins. Oliver & Lyttelton Es-
tate, Colosseum, E12-818, Day seats from
£10.50. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452
3000) / Embankment.

○ **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER**
Hit 1970s musical featuring songs by the
Bee Gees. London Palladium Argyll
Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) / Oxford
Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm,
£10-£32.50, 135 mins.

○ **SHOW BOAT** Jerome Kern and
Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the
Mississippi. Prince Edward Old Compton
Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) / Leicester
Sq/Tot Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7pm,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, £12.50-
£32.50, 180 mins.

○ **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha
Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's West
Street, WC2 (0171-838 1443) / Leicester
Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 2.45pm, (7)
5pm, £9-£23, 135 mins.

○ **MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING** Declan Donnellan directs
Cheek By Jowl in a new production of
Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse
Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-838
4401/cc 316 4747) / Embankment,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7.30pm, ends
25 Jul, £10-£22.

○ **THE OLD NEIGHBOR-
HOOD** David Mamet's new play is
directed by Patrick Marber. Royal Court
(at the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane,
WC2 (0171-565 5000) / Leicester Sq/Char-
ing X, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (7) 3.30pm, £5-
£19.50, benches 10p, Mon-all seats £5.

○ **THE PHANTOM OF
THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's
gothic musical. Her Majesty's
Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344
4444) / Picc. Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
(4) 7.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

○ **POPCORN** Lawrence Boswell
directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema
violence. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5070) / Picc. Circ, Mon-Sat
8pm, (4) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £8.50-£23.50,
150 mins.

○ **THE REAL INSPECTOR
HOUND & BLACK COMEDY**
Douglas Bill of drama from Tom Stoppard
and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory
Doran. Comedy Parton Street, SW1
(0171-369 1731) / Picc. Circ, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, £7-£20, £7.50-
£27.50, 165 mins.

○ **RENT** Musical inspired by La
Bohème and set in modern-day New York.
Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2
(0171-379 5399) / Holborn/Tot Ct Rd,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, £12.50-
£32.50, 160 mins.

○ **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE**
○ **OLIVER** An Enemy Of The People
An McKellen stars in a new version of
Ibsen's explosive critical drama. In rep,
tonight 7.15pm, ends 20 Jun, 180 mins.
○ **Colossus: The Day I Stood Still**
Kevin Elyot's new play, directed by Ian
Rickson, is based on a friendship forged
in the 1960s. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends
27 Jun, 110 mins. Oliver & Lyttelton Es-
tate, Colosseum, E12-818, Day seats from
£10.50. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452
3000) / Embankment.

○ **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER**
Hit 1970s musical featuring songs by the
Bee Gees. London Palladium Argyll
Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) / Oxford
Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm,
£10-£32.50, 135 mins.

○ **SHOW BOAT** Jerome Kern and
Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the
Mississippi. Prince Edward Old Compton
Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) / Leicester
Sq/Tot Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7pm,
Mon-S

THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(87.8-98.5MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball
9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo
Whaley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00
Dave Pearce 6.30 Steve Lamacq
The Evening Session 8.30 Live
Music Update 8.40 John Peel
10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00
Chris Warren 4.00 - 6.30 Chris
Moyle

RADIO 2
(88.5-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah
Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00
Debbie Thorne 2.00 Ed Stewart
3.00 John Dunn 7.00 David Alan
8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 The Impro
Musical 9.30 The Russ Abbot
Show 10.00 Paul Giamatti's
Inside Track 10.30 Richard
Ainsworth 12.05 Steve Madden
3.00 - 4.00 Katrina

RADIO 3
(90.2-94.9MHz FM)
8.00 On Air
9.00 Masterworks
10.30 Composer of the Week
11.00 Sound Stories
12.00 Composer of the Week
Beethoven
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
2.00 The BBC Orchestra
4.00 The Piano
4.45 Music Machine
5.00 In Tune

7.30 Performance on 3. A concert
given in April at the Barbican
Centre, London. Conductor Michael
Tilson Thomas. Thomas Hampson
(baritone). Bernstein: Suite: 'A Quiet
Place'. Mahler: Blühe mir nicht in
die Lieder. Ich atmet' einen Linden
Düft. Im Mitternacht. Ich bin der
Welt abhanden gekommen
(Ruckert-Lieder). Copland:
Symphony No 3

9.20 Postscript. Christopher Cook
talks to five of Hollywood's most
successful screenwriters: 4. Daniel
Waters, writer of 'Batman Returns',
'Heathers', and the multi-million-
dollar film that became a famous
Hollywood disaster, 'Hudson Hawk'.
9.45 Orphanus Britannicus. A selection
of Purcell's songs realised by
Britten

10.00 Music Restored. Chris da
Souza introduces the first of two
Radio 3 Invitation Concerts.
Recorded earlier this month at the
1998 Luffhansa Festival of Baroque
Music, which this year has as its

PICK OF THE DAY

IF JOHN Smith hadn't died of a
heart attack in 1994, we might
not be squabbling over Mandy's
damned Dome, says Christopher
Andrew, in What If? (8pm R4),
a new series of fantastically ferocious
discussions about things
that never happened. The Russ
Abbot Show (9.30pm R2) displays
sufficient irreverence to
DiCaprio and Winslet's perfor-
mances in James Cameron's

Titanic vanity project, and
journalist Liz Allen finds Veron-
ica Guerin (right), the crime
correspondent shot dead in
1996, a Hard Act to Follow
(9pm/9.30pm R4) as she takes
over the crime desk at the Irish
Sunday Independent. According
to her editor, Allen is "cut from
the same cloth", and has little
time for recent accusations of
recklessness. FIONA STURGES



theme the music of the French
Baroque. Wilbert Hazelzet (flute),
Jacques Ogg (harpsichord) and
Christian Norde (viola da gamba)
perform chamber music by
Hotteterre, Moré and Laclair.
10.45 Night Waves. Paul Allen
explores the way glass has
transformed the urban landscape
of the century as the new National
Glass Centre opens in Sunderland.
It will include two full-size glass fac-
tories and draws upon the heritage
of 13 centuries of glass-making in
the area.

11.30 Jazz Notes
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Ives (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night
RADIO 4
(92.4-94.8MHz FM)

6.00 Today
9.00 A Hard Act to Follow. See
Pick of the Day

9.30 Ma and My Sidecar
9.45 Serial: Boyhood
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour
11.00 NEWS; From Our Own Cor-
respondent

11.30 Rent 4
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.30 Puzzle Panel
2.00 NEWS; The Archers
2.45 Afternoon Play: The Magic
Caravan

3.00 NEWS; Call You and Yours
(171) 580 4444
3.30 What's Yours is Mine
3.45 Windrush - Talking Heads
4.00 NEWS; Law in Action
4.30 The Material World
5.00 PM

5.57 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Goodness Gracious Me
7.00 NEWS; The Archers
7.25 Front Row. Mark Lawson
discovers the secrets of the perfect
short story and finds the fine art of
glass on show in Sunderland.

7.45 Under One Roof. Stairway
to Heaven. By Michele Hanson and
Jenny Landreth, based on Michele
Hanson's articles. With Paola
Donisotti and Edna Dora. Director
Marilyn Irmie (4/5)

8.00 NEWS; What If? Radio's
counterfactual history programme
returns with more speculation
about the past. 1. In 1994, Labour
leader John Smith died suddenly
from a heart attack. A personal
friend - senior Liberal Democrat MP
Menzies Campbell - and Patrick
Wintour, political editor of the
Observer, join Professor
Christopher Andrew to discuss how
differently things might have turned
out. See Pick of the Day.

8.30 The Week in Westminster.
Boris Johnson of The Daily
Telegraph looks behind the scenes
at Westminster.
9.00 NEWS; Hotlinks. Jez Nelson
explores the latest in technological
innovation.

9.30 A Hard Act to Follow. In the
first of eight conversations about
professional and personal
"inherencies", Diana Madill talks to
Liz Allen, crime correspondent of
Ireland's Sunday Independent,
whose predecessor in the job,
Veronica Guerin, was murdered by
the gangsters she had striven to

expose. See Pick of the Day.
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Master
George. Beryl Bainbridge's latest
novel is abridged by Pauline Wallis.
October 1994 - Funeral Procession
Shadowed by Beatrix. Read by
Richard Griffiths (5/10)

11.00 If You're So Clever, Why
Aren't You Rich? Deaf. The last
part of Paul Shearer and Richard
Turner's comedy drama series
about three not-so-young things
sharing a flat. Starring Tony
Slattery, Amanda Root and Paul
Bigley. Giles is filled with joy - Great
Uncle Jeremy has died and there is
a chance he might inherit.
11.30 The Sound of Sound
12.00 News

12.30 Late Story: Mexican Bears
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service
5.30 World News
5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today

RADIO 4 LW
(98.1kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service 11.00
Test Match Special 12.00 News
Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.04 - 1.00 Test Match Special
1.30 Test Match Special 5.54
Shipping Forecast 5.57 - 6.30
Test Match Special 11.30 - 12.00
Today in Parliament

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 908kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme
9.00 Nicky Campbell
12.00 The Midday News

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

WRITER Willy Russell has a real
knack for creating women's roles
- remember the accuracy of the
lead character in his Educating
Rita? In Shirley Valentine (8pm
Sky Movies Gold), a winning
romantic comedy adapted from
Russell's stage-play by veteran
film-maker Lewis Gilbert (The
Good, the Bad and the Ugly),
Pauline Collins (right) dominates as a bored
housewife who leaves her

husband for a Greek island and
a lanky local (Tom Conti). Much
in the news recently after the
death of his wife, Linda, Sir Paul
McCartney is the subject of a day
of tributes on VH-1. Highlights
include: The Greatest Hits of
Paul McCartney (8pm); Paul
McCartney Town Hall Meet-
ing (10pm); and Paul McCart-
ney - Live in the New World.
Charlotte, USA, 1993 (1am).



JAMES RAMPTON

12.00 First Flights (870522) 12.30 Disaster
(870523) 1.00 The World's Most Dan-
gerous Animals (870524) 2.00 Close

SKY 1
2.00 Tinted Teenage Alien Fighters from
Beverly Hills (870525) 2.30 Games World
(870526) 2.45 The Simpsons (870527) 3.30
The Oprah Winfrey Show (870528) 4.00
Hotel (870529) 10.00 Another World
(870530) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (870531)
12.00 Married with Children (870532)
12.30 M*A*S*H (870533) 12.55 The
Special K Collection (870534) 1.00 Gar-
dio (870535) 1.35 The Special K Collec-
tion (870536) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael
(870537) 2.35 The Special K Collection
(870538) 3.00 Jerry Jones (870539) 4.00
The Oprah Winfrey Show (870540) 5.00
Star Trek: The Next Generation (870541) 6.00
The Nanny (870542) 6.30 Married with Chil-
dren (870543) 7.00 The Simpsons (870544) 8.00
America's Funniest Home Videos (870545) 8.30
Seinfeld (870546) 9.00 Friends (870547) 9.30
Friends (870548) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next
Generation (870549) 11.00 LAPD (870550)
1.00 - 7.00 Long Play (870551)

SKY SPORTS 1
2.00 Sky Sports Centre (870552) 2.35
World Wrestling Federation (870553) 3.00
Centre (870554) 3.30 Sky Sports Centre
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9.30 Sky Sports Centre (870567) 10.00 World
of Super League with Eddie and Steve

(2374) 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (870570)
12.30 Snooker (870571) 2.30 Sports Un-
ited (870572) 3.30 Football (870573) 4.00
Dancing (870574) 5.00 WWF Superstars
(870575) 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (870576)
6.30 2000 Futbol Mundial (870577) 7.00
Dancing (870578) 8.00 International Rugby
Union USA v Japan (870579) 9.00 Trans
World Sports (870580) 10.00 World Cup
Phone-In (870581) 10.45 Sky Sports
Centre (870582) 11.00 Formula Three
Racing (870583) 11.30 Futbol Mundial
(870584) 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (870585)
12.45 Night News (870586) 2.45
World Cup Phone-In (870587) 3.00 Sky
Sports Centre (870588) 3.35 International
Rugby Union USA v Japan (870589) 4.00
Dancing (870590) 5.00 Sky Sports
Centre (870591) 5.30 Close

SKY SPORTS 2
2.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (870571) 2.30
Sky Sports Centre (870572) 2.45 Racing
News (870573) 3.35 European Tour Golf
Magazine (870574) 4.45 Sky Sports Cen-
tre (870575) 5.00 Fish TV America's
Outdoors (870576) 5.30 Fish TV Fishing
Tales (870577) 6.00 Golf Extra
(870578) 10.00 Waterports World
(870579) 2.30 Futbol Mundial (870580)
3.00 World of Super League with Eddie
and Steve (870581) 3.30 Sky Sports
Centre (870582) 4.00 Sky Sports Centre
(870583) 4.35 Sky Sports Centre (870584)
5.00 Inside the PGA Tour (870585) 5.30
Golf USA (870586) 6.00 Sky Sports Cen-
tre (870587) 6.35 Ice Hockey (870588) 7.00
5.45 - 7.00 Sports Centre (870589)

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling Federation Super-
stars (870590) 1.00 Wild Sports
(870591) 1.30 Tennis Nottingham Open
(870592) 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (870593)
2.30 Formula Three Racing (870594) 3.00
Tight Line (870595) 3.30 Bowling
(870596) 4.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870597) 4.30 Bobby Charlton's Foot-
ball Scrapbook (870598) 11.30 Close

EUROSPORT
6.00 Football: World Cup 98 (870577) 7.30
Football: World Cup 98 (870578) 9.00 Foot-
ball: World Cup 98 (870579) 10.00 Football:
World Cup 98 (870580) 11.00 Football: World Cup 98
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(870838) 10.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870839) 10.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870840) 11.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870841) 11.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870842) 12.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870843) 12.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870844) 1.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870845) 1.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870846) 2.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870847) 2.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870848) 3.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870849) 3.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870850) 4.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870851) 4.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870852) 5.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870853) 5.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870854) 6.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870855) 6.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870856) 7.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870857) 7.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870858) 8.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870859) 8.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870860) 9.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870861) 9.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870862) 10.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870863) 10.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870864) 11.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870865) 11.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870866) 12.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870867) 12.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870868) 1.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870869) 1.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870870) 2.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870871) 2.30 Football: World Cup 98
(870872) 3.00 Football: World Cup 98
(870873) 3.30 Football: World Cup 98

[illegible]

6 PM
7 PM
8 PM
9 PM
10 PM

Channel 5

4,900-100 Per Cent. These people are put into bottom tanks

6.30 Family Attraction. Holy is still trying to lose her virginity; and quizzed herociously. The winner comes back tomorrow. (T) (7260157).

more. Now that's what I call masochism! (T) (7260157).

7.00 Family Attraction. Holy is still trying to lose her virginity; you'll be pleased to hear. (S) (T) (7265429).

7.00 6 News, Including First on Five. Kirsty Young does the rounds of studio furniture. (S) (T) (407447).

7.30 Realm of the Polar Bear. Visit the recently discovered, fossilised forest on Axel Heiberg Island (S) (T) (6520293).

6.00 Water Rate. More cop action from Sydney Harbour.
Holdaway (the excellent Colin Firth, in an interesting
change of pace) is busted to hospital after doing stunts
in an armed robbery (S) (R707086).

reporting an ugly little insurance scam involving a life drama about a small-town American teenager. Heather Fairfield, who is accused of killing a murderer her bullying father (played by Charles Hall) admirably unseasonal, but not very interestingly handled father. Bruce Weitz, is the nominal doc, as the investigating detective (1) (5/5/89B).

11.30 Hotline (S) (778970).

12.05 Live and Dangerous. Including at 1.15 US soccer (as if we needed any more), at 3.10 Asian soccer (ditto and, at 3.50 Australian rules football) (S) (63470839).

4.40 Prisoner Call Block H (638839), 5.30 100 Per Cent Call (S) (638855), to 8.00am.

FILM OF THE DAY
(4:35pm C4, *night*) Tony Hancock es-

